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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

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Cover ...

Slowly but surely, Kevin McHale is working his way back in the Celtics lineup. Shown here recently in the game vs. the Nets, Kevin is carefully recuperating. Cover photography by Steve Lipofsky.

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Life around the NBA during Christmas is often a catch-as-catch-can event. The Celtics' lifestyle is no exception. Playing on December 26th and 27th makes the appreciation of Christmas that much more important to the Celtics families.

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Johnny Most & Chick Hearn To Team Up For All-Star Game



Chick Hearn, Fred Manfra (ABC Radio), and Johnny Most Square Off for the All-Star Game

Legendary radio voices Johnny Most and Chick Hearn, synonymous with the Boston Celtics and Los Angeles Lakers, will work together for the first time on ABC Radio Sports' broadcast of the 38th annual NBA All-Star Game on Feb. 7 from Chicago Stadium. Most, lead announcer for the Celtics' radio network (WEEI-AM flagship) will call play-by-play of the first half and expert analysis for the second half. Hearn, voice of the Lakers and their radio network (KLAC-AM flagship), will handle expert analysis in the first half and then take over play-

by-play of the second half. ABC Radio Sports' Fred Manfra will host the broadcast, anchoring pre-game, half-time and post-game segments. Shelby Whitfield, Executive Producer of ABC Radio Sports, commented: "Johnny Most and Chick Hearn are the consummate professional basketball broadcasters and the most recognizable names in the history of NBA broadcasting. If they don't injure each other arguing the merits of Celtic and Laker All-Stars, it should be an interesting game to produce."

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Kevin McHale's Progress is Slow but Sure Working His Way Back

These are strange days for Kevin McHale. Since McHale has been with the Celtics, he has known unqualified success. In three seasons, the Celtics have won 2 NBA titles. After re-signing with the Celtics in 1983 and thus avoiding a possible entry into the free agent market, McHale has been a star in the league: Sixth Man of the Year in 1984 and 1985, All-Defensive Team in 1986 and 1987, and last season on the wings of a 26.1 ppg scoring average, 6th best in the circuit, McHale was First Team All-Pro. But in the eighth year of his career, something's different for McHale. He began the season on injured reserve, in the midst of a six month recovery from foot surgery. As the season began to take on its annual rhythm McHale was again trying to find himself. He was returned to the active list November 30th, a full six weeks earlier than anticipated, so that was a victory. But to the people most closely related to the team, including Coach K.C. Jones, Assistant Coach and Director of Player Personnel Jimmy Rodgers and Trainer Ed Lacerte, he hasn't yet regained his form.

In a sport where quickness, deception,

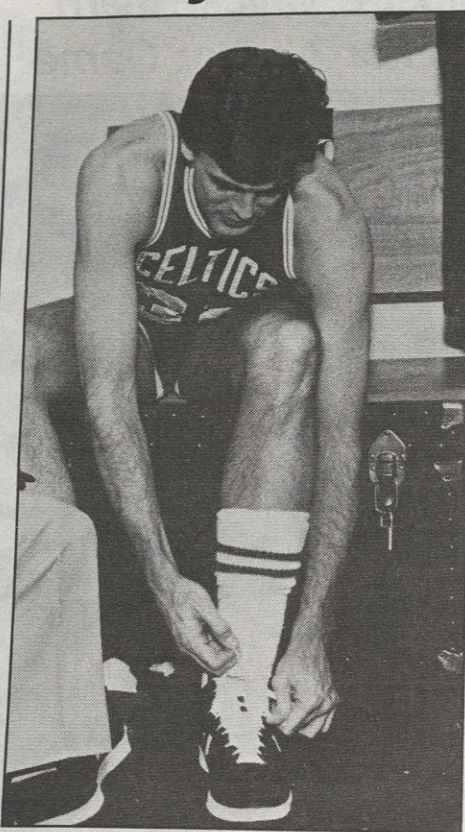
agility and jumping count everything, McHale isn't all the way back.

For a player who thrives on power, confidence and even a certain arrogance, Kevin McHale has played tentatively this season. The player who animates Celtics' practice with his cockiness and spirit has been different.

"I think the biggest problem is that while everybody is rounding into perfect condition at this time of the year, I'm still in training camp as far as my conditioning goes. It sets a whole cycle into motion: there's fatigue and then, in trying to keep up, there's some pain. So my timing's off. So I'm missing some shots and I haven't felt in synch with the rest of the team," McHale stated last week after practice.

After a 22-point effort off the bench in his 1987-88 debut in Atlanta, Jones started McHale the following night against the New Jersey Nets. Kevin responded with a McHale-like night: nine-for-eleven from the field, 23 points, 8 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 blocks. This was a 32 minute effort in a back-to-back situation. The superb performance also brought some pain.

"What I'm learning is that there are ups



Kevin McHale: Coming Along

and downs in trying to come back. It was real rough when we played three games in four nights — one slight misstep and there's swelling. It's pretty hard when you wake up one morning and you feel great and then the next, you wonder 'Why am I even attempting to play basketball?'"

The Celtics had traveled to Detroit after McHale's effort against the Nets, and the Minnesota Forward played 38 minutes, scoring 20 with 9 rebounds and 3 blocks. The numbers were there, the effort was there, but the foot ached. The Celtics weren't playing well either, and in a game against the Pistons on the road, the Green fell behind 64-45 and the pressure was on everybody to play beyond themselves to get back into that game. All around, a lost cause.

"We need to cut back on his minutes," asserted Jones last week. "He's been out a long time. There's only so much a man can do in trying to regain game conditioning by himself. Game conditioning is different. After five-six minutes, he's laboring and this builds up on the mind. I'm limiting his minutes to twenty-five per game."

In an ironic twist of events, the Celtics' recent dovetail has paralleled McHale's return. "Kevin's one of the key men we go to," thinks Fred Roberts who started the first twelve games of the year. He's come back, so now we're trying to figure out who plays when, and how effectively we can play together. We've had several different players working together and it's been tough. But it's fortunate he's back. He's an All-Star."

The alarms went clanging through the Boston Garden, Causeway Street and throughout the NBA as the Celtics were upended in back-to-back games at the Garden: 124-119 to Denver and 115-114 to Los Angeles. McHale's four for twelve production in the latter contest signaled attention to his plight and the need to cut back on his playing time. He played 37 minutes vs. LA.

"There are areas of weakness in his foot," Lacerte commented "and there is swelling. It's not a re-injury. The joint's inflamed; this is still a part of the rehabilitation period so we're back to strengthening particular muscle groups in the foot." This includes isokinetics, resistive exercises and mobilization and flexibility work.

A play from the Los Angeles game perhaps illustrates the somewhat confusing atmosphere pervading the McHale psyche. He connected on a short jump hook in the lane and as he came down, he tangled arms with Byron Scott. During the past three seasons, McHale's spontaneous reaction would have been for him to push Scott away aggressively, with both arms powerfully, fully extended. But now, there was too much pain and too much invested in merely trying to keep up with the pack. McHale ducked his head and avoided the potential fight. This isn't to ignore the good moments from that same game: for the first time, he was able to bounce up quickly for second shot rebounds, reaching up in his familiar way, arms extended over the defensive rebounders for four points on the offensive glass. "It's where we need him most," observes Larry Bird.

"Kevin's coming along," thinks Jimmy Rodgers. "He has come back and he is playing. We just need to use him more sparingly. There's no erosion of skills but his timing's off. I suspect you just have to be patient, because, in a way, he's still in the middle of his own training camp period."

"I'm trying to keep it in perspective," says McHale. "I am back, and even though there is pain, I'm putting in the necessary time to come all the way back to form. But regardless of the stats, it's more than that. I don't look at a game and say 'I scored 20 points with 8 rebounds.' I look at it and think about the plays I didn't make. And that's where this injury has really been most painful. And as a team, we've allowed ourselves to self-destruct in the concentration area. We outscored Denver by 10 points in the first quarter last week. You're playing well if you outscore a team by ten points in a period. But then we slipped in the 2nd and 3rd (quarters). We can't allow our inconsistent periods to be horrendous. We have to keep working to stay even on the scoreboard, even if we are playing shabbily."

"Personally, I just have to keep my head up. I'll make one of my normal twists off my foot in the post and my ankle won't glide the way it would normally. So I have some doubts and I'm hobbled a little bit. The foot hasn't adjusted right yet. The muscles haven't built up so there's more work to do. What I'm finding is a new outlook on playing. I'll always appreciate my health now: I see a young player like Brad Lohaus running up and down and playing good and I remember what it was like to feel good and run."

Kevin concluded the interview at the team's practice court at Hellenic College and returned to the court. It's his ritual; practice shot after practice shot; a man who enjoys the feature of the game where one can improve in solitude, working on moves and touch. But this day, he took one turnaround jumper from the lane and turned and departed. "That's enough of that," he sighed and walked out of the gym.

Ask Red Auerbach



EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of Celtics Pride. If you have a question for Red, please send it to Celtics Pride, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

QUESTION: When a shot is taken and does not touch anything (an air ball), is it counted as a rebound when it is caught by another player, and is a tip-in counted as a rebound as well as a made shot?

Bo Smith, Cooleemee, N.C.

RED'S ANSWER: It's obvious from your question both that you are a statistics freak and that you know a good deal about the rules of basketball. You're right on both aspects of your question. If an obvious field goal attempt is an air ball, meaning that it doesn't hit either the rim or the backboard, the official scorer credits the shooter with a field goal attempt and the player who recovers the ball with a rebound. If the rebounder is on the offensive team, the 24-second clock is not reset, which generally means that his team had better hurry to get another shot up before the clock expires. When a player tips in one of his teammates missed shots, he gets credit for an offensive rebound, and for a field goal attempted and made.

QUESTION: Several teams seem to have a "problem" player, one who misses practices or gets in trouble off the court. I am impressed by the Celtics strong sense of family and high moral values. Do you take the background of prospective new players into consideration as well as their playing ability and talent?

Carol Chauvin, Hyde Park, Vt.

RED'S ANSWER: To some extent, we absolutely take character and personality under consideration when we view a basketball player as a member of the Boston Celtics, both when we are thinking of drafting him and when we are making a trade. Obviously, you don't want any trouble-makers on your team. But to go too far with that line of thinking would be letting the inmates run the asylum, in my opinion. If a guy has a long-standing reputation as a trouble-maker and I'm convinced that he can't or won't change, then we won't even consider him. On the other hand, lots of times those vague hints about a player's personality being a problem is just a reflection of a conflict between him and a particular coach or player, and not of his overall character. When a new player comes to the Celtics, I expect him to immediately conform to the very high standards we set. I will never judge a guy just on the basis of what some writer says about him; that opinion could be a personal thing. We have a history of having obtained players through trades whose character had been questioned and then having those guys prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the questions were false ones. On our present team, Dennis Johnson is a prime example of that. When we got him from Phoenix in 1983, his adaptability to our system and standards was

doubted; it goes without saying that he has proven himself both as a player and as a person to be a genuine Boston Celtic. He has convinced even the most biased of observers of his class, and he has helped us to two championships.

Incidentally, this present group of players constitute perhaps the finest group of people we've had on the team. Most are married and family men, and all of them demonstrate the sort of moral values that I would hope we can project to kids.

QUESTION: Is Eddie Bird, younger brother of Larry Bird, a future possibility for the Celtics? I heard he is attending Indiana State, Larry's alma mater.

Brad Howard, Louisville, Ky.

RED'S ANSWER: It's much too early to tell what kind of player Eddie Bird will be. He's just a freshman at Indiana State and, counting his game here in Boston against Boston University last week, he's played just three collegiate basketball games. I've learned through years of experience not to judge any player too early in his college career; guys mature, both physically and mentally, in those key years, and you need to watch that development. I will say this about Eddie, though: he's a great kid with his head on straight. He looks a great deal like Larry and even shoots somewhat like Larry (although obviously not quite as well), and that last name will be a heavy burden for him as his career progresses. He seems to

have the personality to cope with those great expectations, which is very important. As far as our chances of getting him, it's much too early to tell. He won't even be eligible for the draft for several years, and you can never consider the draft more than one year in advance.

QUESTION: Recently I read that Rick Carlisle is now playing in the Continental Basketball Association for the Albany Patroons. Could you please explain a little about the CBA?

Eileen Garrity, Chester, Ct.

RED'S ANSWER: First of all, an update on Rick Carlisle. He did, in fact, join the Albany team in the CBA shortly after we made him our last training camp cut this year. However, after only a few games there, he was grabbed up and signed by the New York Knicks, where he has been playing very well. In fact, in his first game with the Knicks, he had the game of his career, scoring 21 points. We agreed with you that Rick is a fine player, but he just lost out in the numbers game here. Now, here's the basic scoop on the CBA. The CBA is an independent basketball league that serves essentially as a proving ground for potential NBA players who have not been able to make NBA teams. Any team in the NBA can sign any player in the CBA to a contract; it's not like baseball, where a major league team owns the rights to the players of specific minor league teams. In basketball, the colleges are the minor leagues; the CBA is a holding tank for high-quality players who have generally just missed making the NBA

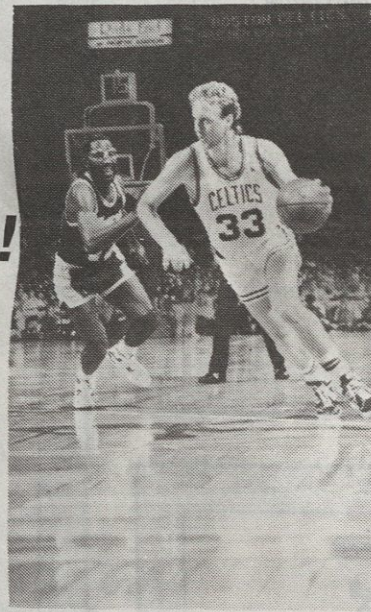
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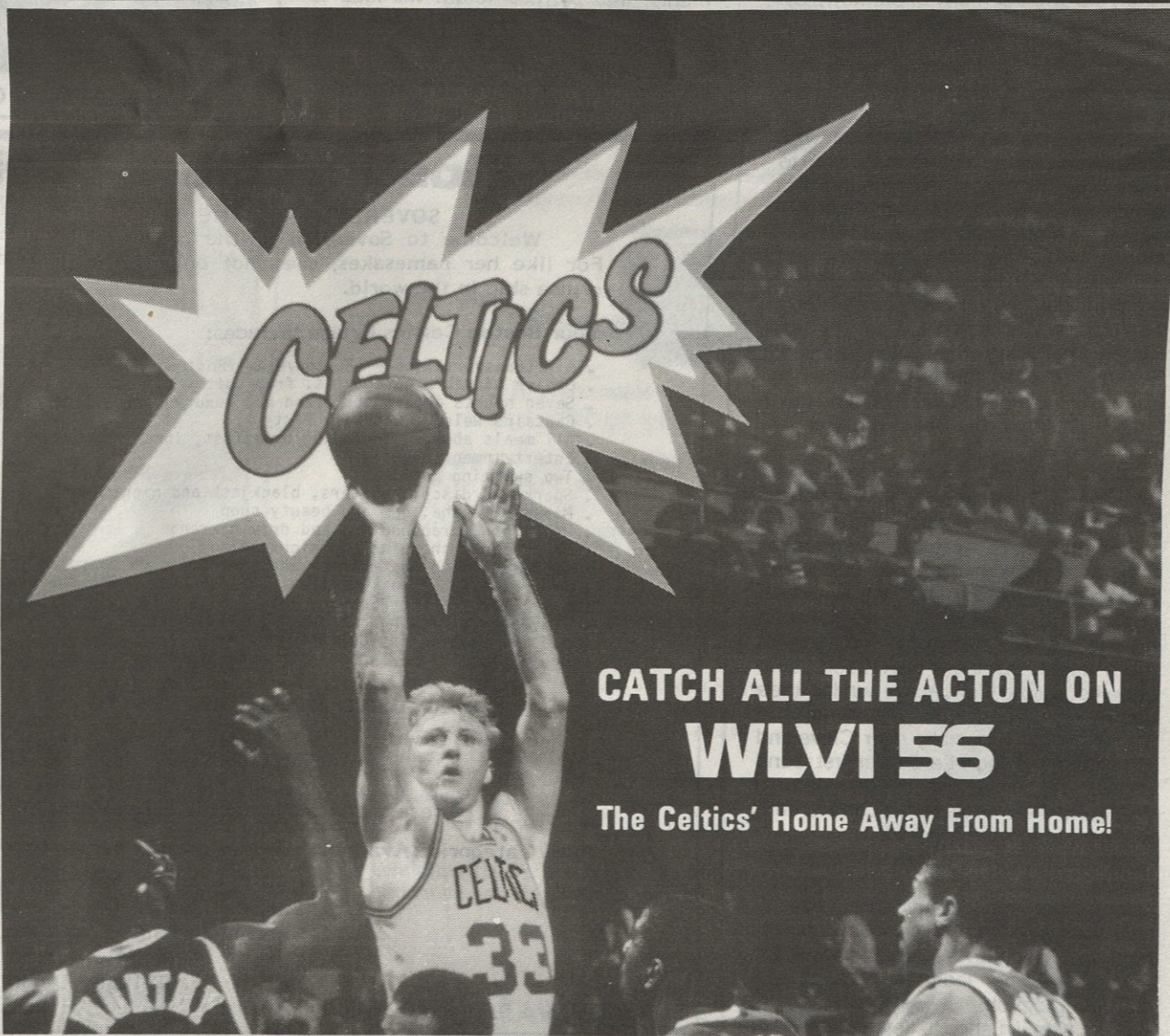
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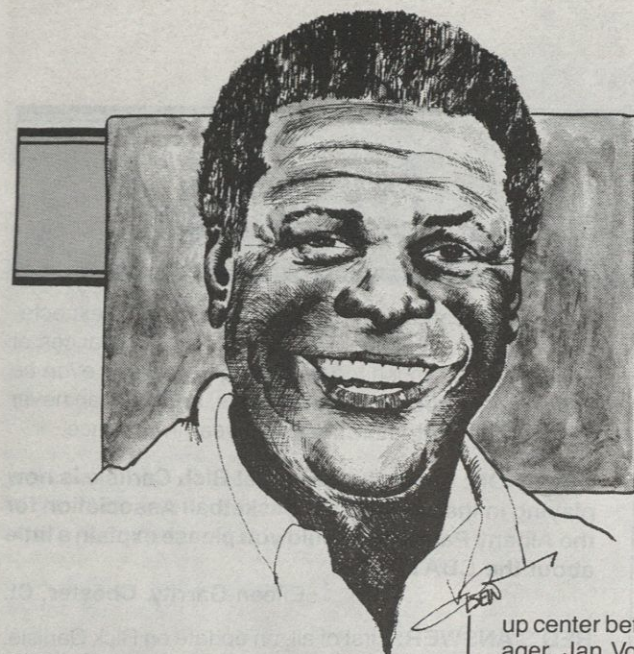
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K.C.s Corner

Changes

The return of Kevin McHale to the active list November 30th couldn't have been more welcome. Kevin is an All-Pro, he has been a major influence on three team championships in the eighties, and he has grown professionally each season since I've been coach of the team.

Ironically, his return to the team brought some initial difficulties. As he put it to a group of reporters last week, "We're in something of a slump." Here, I'd like to examine the background of our team up to this point, this season. I think this will illustrate why we've struggled some recently.

Yet, we are 12-6 and we've played most of the year without many of our key players, including Kevin, Larry Bird and Bill Walton. I'm proud of that record, although I confess I have been rankled somewhat by some of our individual games. Some key events this season:

Instituting the Running Game. It was our intention coming into training camp to get our people to run more. I thought that we had become too stationary last season, too embedded in the halfcourt offense, with everything coming too hard offensively. We began the Pre-Season and the regular season very disciplined in this area and we won thirteen straight games, including the seven in Pre-Season that don't count in the standings. Hopefully however, those games have firmly implanted this philosophy for the entire year.

Lately however, we have forgotten to run. We've fallen into some bad habits. We're missing our focus.

Playing Lewis, Acres and Lohaus. At first we were forced to give our young people more playing time. We lived with some of the mistakes; only experience in the league can dictate the right moves many times. But there have been some benefits. Before Mark Acres hurt his knee last week, he contributed significantly to several wins, especially over Cleveland and Indiana. Reggie Lewis, our first round choice, was exceptional in some games, erratic in others as was Brad Lohaus, who we think is a fine player, too.

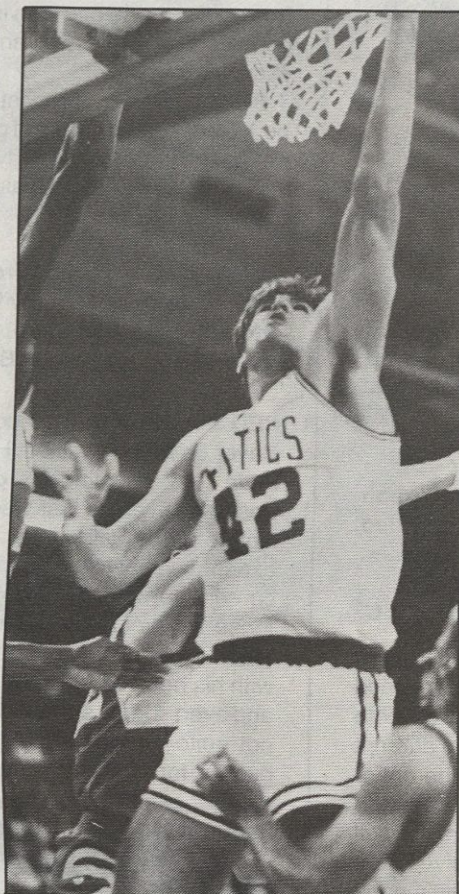
We benefitted from these youngsters' talents, but believe me, it is an unpredictable science at best, anticipating exactly how young players will perform consistently in the league. We've played well, but sometimes other teams have exploited our young bench.

Greg Kite. I rushed to defend our back-

up center before, as did our General Manager, Jan Volk, in an earlier issue of this magazine. Really, enough said in this area. Greg is on the team because we think he can get the job done when we call on him. It's that clear. I don't think Greg needs any defending and it wouldn't do any good to defend him anyway. What is this 'Kite Controversy'? Anyway? Is it just something to write about?

Activating Kevin McHale. As stated above, I think the return of Kevin McHale makes our team an outstanding one again. Sure, we miss Bill Walton and the absence and pain of Larry Bird diminishes us considerably.

Kevin's return came after he worked and worked to get himself back into NBA shape. Anytime a player is injured however, and the team has to make adjustments, that player's return will lead to even further adjustments and scrambling. Ultimately, Kevin's return to the starting line-up depended on his physical conditioning, and not on his foot. When he was prepared to go full throttle, he was



Mark Acres: Significant Contributions

back out there. But as he has come back, the rest of the team has had to adjust, including the coaching staff. How do we continue to run as a team? This approach should help Kevin, less running. But I must search for the best attack to fit our personnel and conversely, I must urge the team to play a certain way. The teams are the ones who are able to play an effective total game, adapting to the tempo of a game and playing well, and constantly being aware of each game and how to take control of it.

The Road Woes. I was asked about our problems on the road constantly after we suffered losses in Detroit and before that, Atlanta. My answer is two-fold. First, we must perform better in our own game. We have to play better defensively. We have to play better in our transition game, both offensively and defensively. Finally, we must execute more effectively in our half-court offense.

Besides that, I can only speak for myself. I don't play. I sit on the sidelines and attempt to coach the best game I can. What is the difference mentally and emotionally between our team at home and on the road? I'm not altogether clear on that. I told a reporter who asked me that that he should go ask the players.

Slumping or changing? We caught a break in the first two weeks of December when we played only four games in thirteen days. We were able to go back to the basics and break down our game, step by step. I think that's the way to deal with any "slump." We're bringing our whole team back together again, except of course Bill Walton at this point in time. It's taking some time, but I think the talent is still there for us to be very much in the running.

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Notes and Quotes

by Jim Rucidlo

"You let Boston off the hook by setting up," Denver's Doug Moe said, "if you just keep running . . . maybe. Now don't get me wrong," the comic coach continued, "we might not win here again for eight years."

"This is a big win, it's a thrill. When you beat Boston here, you gain a big advantage. How many teams win here? I hope the Celtics win the rest of their (home) games; we don't play them here again — let them kill the other guys."

□ □ □

Happy birthday to Jerry Sichting, who turned 31 on November 29, and Darren Daye, who celebrated his 27th on November 30.

Jerry, in his seventh NBA season, was a teammate of Joe Barry Carroll at Purdue University.

Darren grew up with Patriots quarterback Tom Ramsey. After playing Pop Warner football together, they both went on to attend Kennedy High School, in Granada Hills, California, and both were members of UCLA's Class of 1983.

□ □ □

"There are three times when you don't want to be playing the Celtics," New Jersey Nets' forward Buck Williams said. "One: opening night. Two: the game where they accept their Championship rings. Three: when a great player like Kevin McHale returns after being out for a while."

"I was hoping it would work to our advantage and they'd be too emotional to play well, but it didn't work out that way."

□ □ □

Frank Layden, coach of the Utah Jazz, once a player himself, recorded a career-high eight points in a six-overtime game against Siena in 1953. Layden's teammates at Niagra University included former NBA coaches Hubie Brown and Larry Costello.

□ □ □

He's a stiff, he's a good stiff, we just like stiff," — Doug Moe expostulating on former Boston College guard Michael Adams' 31-point performance against the Celtics.

□ □ □

Q: What NCAA record does Danny Ainge hold?

A: Most consecutive games scoring in double figures.

□ □ □

Celtics record last season with a selected starter missing: McHale (4-1), Johnson (2-1), Bird (5-3), Ainge (6-5), and Parish (0-2).

□ □ □

Denver Nuggets forward Danny Schayes on the changing-of-the-guard in the NBA: "You see the Lakers lose three in a row, which they've never done; you see Boston losing by 20 on the road; you have a situation where other teams are getting better."

"They (Celtics) have had a lot of injuries. When they were great, when they were deep, they were a much different team."

"Now, of course, with Walton out and Wedman gone, they're not four deep at every position and it's a different ballgame."

"They need to get great games from Bird, McHale, and Parish every night. The Celtics always played with five, six, or seven guys, but you can't do that every game and expect to win."

□ □ □

The Los Angeles Clippers and the Dallas Mavericks are the only two NBA clubs which have not retired any players' numbers. Boston, with 16 retired jerseys, leads the league.

□ □ □

In the near future, Julius Erving will become only the third player in NBA history to have his number retired by more than one club. The New Jersey Nets already have retired the No. 32 he wore for their team.

Oscar Robertson (Sacramento/Milwaukee) and Nate Thurmond (Golden State/Cleveland) are the only two players previously receiving this honor.

□ □ □

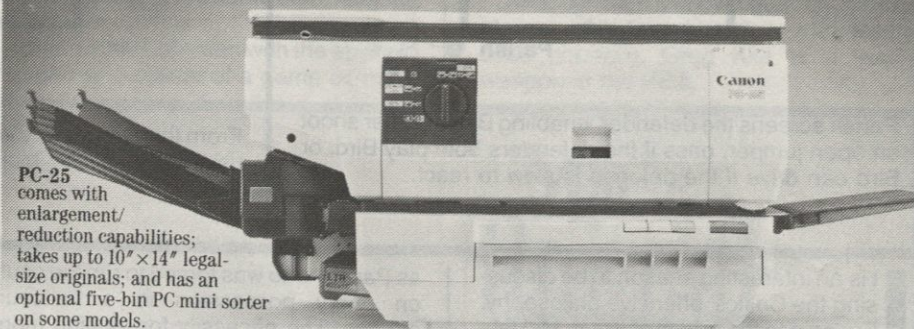
At Brigham Young Danny Ainge wore #22, but when he joined the Celtics he found that number already had been retired. Nonplussed, Danny doubled the 22 and walked away wearing #44.

□ □ □

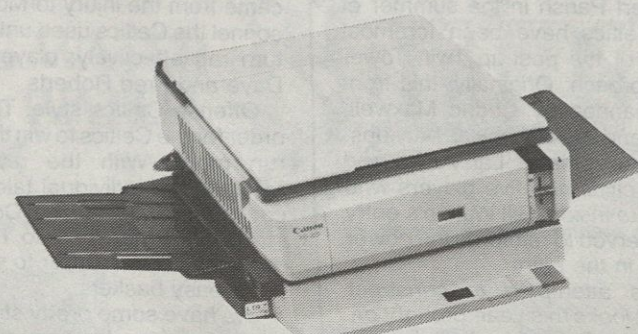
Greg Kite is one of eight NBA players who posted a higher field goal percentage (42.7) than freethrow percentage (38.2) last season. The other seven players were Mark West, Chris Washburn, Mark McNamara, Brad Wright, David Thirdkill, Mike O'Koren, and Bruce Douglas.

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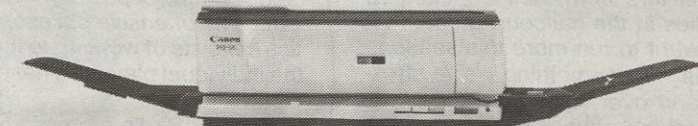
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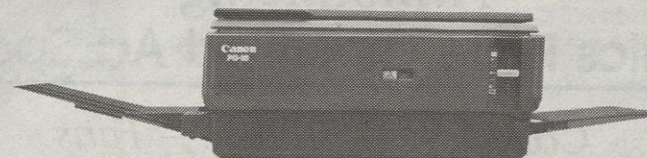
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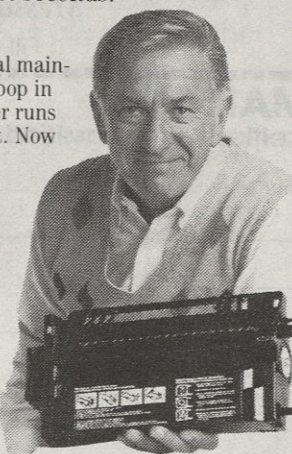
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Former Boston Herald writer Mike Carey shares his views

The Boston Beat

Boston area Celtics fans are very familiar with Mike Carey's byline appearing for years in the *Boston Herald*. Both he and Bob Ryan of the *Globe* combined to give fans two of the best beat writers in the NBA. After covering the team for years, Mike dropped off in sports marketing. Since that time, Mike's life has continued to be as challenging and busy as before. He was kind enough to spend some time with *Celtics Pride*.

CELTICS PRIDE: How did you come to cover the Celtics for the *Herald*?
CAREY: I covered the Celtics from 1981-82 to 85-86; at that point I had some back problems and had to give it up. I started as a Journalism major at Boston University, and upon graduation started working for the *Boston Herald*, staying with them for fourteen years, nine of them as Metro Editor and News Editor. The Celtics writer at the time left the paper to go to Texas, at which point I was offered the position and, enjoying the game of basketball as much as I did, I jumped at the chance.

CELTICS PRIDE: What do you feel is the major difference between the current team, and the ones you have covered in the past?

CAREY: I think the bench is as strong as I've ever seen it, which is good, as the team is aging and will need support through the season. Any time you can work the bench into regular season games, it not only rests the starters a little, but also serves to increase the confidence and skills of the rookies. In this way, a team can also protect itself as well as possible against injuries. Realistically, every team in the league has to figure there will be some injuries on the way to the

playoffs. The Celtics are no exception: Kevin is making his way back from major bone surgery, Larry has a nagging tendonitis problem, and assorted nicks and bruises have always accompanied the game. The confident play of the bench can help alleviate some of the problems.

CELTICS PRIDE: Is there a similarity that exists between this and other teams you've covered?

CAREY: I feel that this team still has the best talent in the league. That hasn't changed since I covered them. The talent is undeniable; they certainly miss Bill Walton as a sixth man, and although they have three promising rookies I don't think that they will be making a major contribution this year. If one of them does, so much the better, but it's tough to replace a player like Bill Walton.

CELTICS PRIDE: What's your opinion of the Celtics rookies?

CAREY: When you draft as far down on the list as the Celtics do, and can still end up with two players making your squad, plus a rookie free agent, you've done tremendously well. Of the three, I think Reggie Lewis has the potential to develop the quickest. In Mark Acres, you know what you have, a physical, rebounding, banging kind of guy. I don't think he'll ever become a great scorer, but he will be very effective in the role he's currently in. Brad Lohaus, on the other hand needs to work on that aspect of his game, to become a little more physical. He's got a nice outside shot, and he looks like he could intimidate by blocking a few shots on defense. One thing I think the Celtics will aim for over next summer is to put Brad on a weight program to increase his upper body strength. All three players have the potential to develop into solid role players,

with Reggie Lewis being able to develop into a starter.

CELTICS PRIDE: Are you able to attend many games?

CAREY: Yes, I still attend a lot of games, not only for enjoyment, but also from the standpoint of my business. I also try to catch a lot of games on the road. Particularly the East Coast road games.

CELTICS PRIDE: Where do you think the challengers to the Celtics are going to come from this year?

CAREY: Probably Chicago is the team to watch out for this year. They're someone to really worry about. Atlanta can play with the best, but Chicago poses the most threat to the Celtics. They're a very deep team, at every position. They've got Gilmore and Corzine at center, Oakley and Grant at forward and perhaps four of the best guards in the league. They're a

young team with a superstar to build around and with many key players having a year of experience under their belts.

CELTICS PRIDE: What is it that you are doing now?

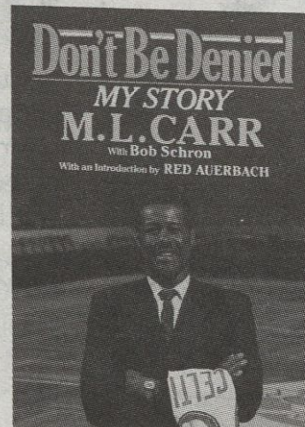
CAREY: While covering the Celtics, I unfortunately had a back injury, which makes sitting down a very uncomfortable position. This precludes me from sitting at my typewriter and banging out stories, so I had to do something, and I wanted to stay in sports and luckily a couple of opportunities came along. One of which was in the field of sports marketing where I was lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time. I work now with corporations, basically advising them on good marketing strategies and plans; then also I work with individual athletes, helping them to put these plans into action. It's really been good because it's kept me around basketball, which of course, I really enjoy. In fact I'll be travelling soon to Washington and will be able to catch another Celtics road trip down there.

Hitting the Boards

Among players with over 200 points and 200 rebounds last season, 11 men had more rebounds than points. Following are the elite 11 when it comes to cleaning the glass:

Player, Team	Rebs.-Pts.	Diff.
Larry Smith, Golden State	917-707	210
Caldwell Jones, Portland	455-319	136
Manute Bol, Washington	362-251	111
Mark Eaton, Utah	697-608	89
James Donaldson, Dallas	973-889	84
Tree Rollins, Atlanta	488-405	83
Charles Jones, Washington	356-284	72
Ed Nealy, San Antonio	284-223	61
Clemon Johnson, Seattle	277-246	31
Jon Koncak, Atlanta	493-463	30

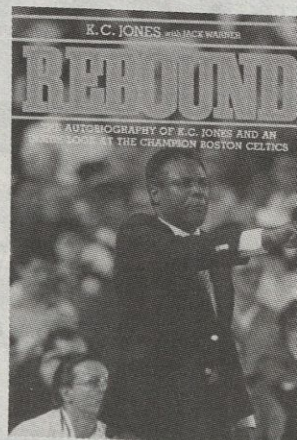
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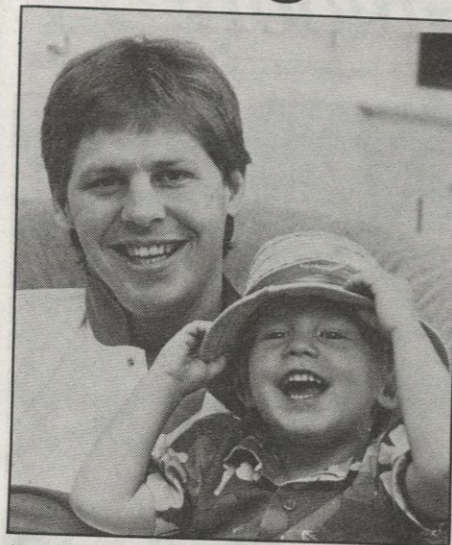
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Christmas in the NBA is Anything but Normal Working over Christmas



Happy Times for the Ainges

A few years ago Red Auerbach was asked how he was planning on spending the holidays; "I don't usually take time for them," he declared then. For years Auerbach would scout in the off-days on the

"Oh, I guess things are difficult," Fred Roberts said last week when he was asked about the stresses life as a professional basketball player place on a family during the season. "But there are ways to overcome that problem. For me, the best approach is to remind myself that it is a family day. We may go out of town each Christmas, so I make certain that the kids and my wife know that I think it's very important we have at least part of the day together."

Life on the road in the National Basketball Association has its advantages and disadvantages. For a younger player and a player who is interested in travel, the opportunity is priceless: seeing the country with travel expenses paid, and meal money thrown in besides. But the disadvantage of the road is brought clearly into focus on Christmas, the most important holiday season in the American culture. Teams in the NBA are beginning to prime themselves for a run at the playoffs and/or the championship. If they aren't scheduled for a game that day! Two years ago, the Celtics played on Christmas afternoon in New York and it was a morose group that boarded the plane Christmas Eve — with families, for the most part — for a celebration at a hotel in the City.

Ellen Jones talked about some of the characteristics of a holiday celebration by a professional coach's family. "You make adjustments, that's all. We try usually to celebrate the holiday on Christmas Eve or early Christmas morning because the team is always on a trip or has a game." The Joneses have a young son, Christopher, who is four years old. "There are other ways to approach it, or course. In basketball, for example, Jimmy Rodgers and Donna Rodgers and their family are celebrating the holiday on January 5th.

"I think you have to try to keep perspective. In a way, it's like other professions who travel a lot, or work on holidays."

"I like to have my family together on holidays," says the team Captain, Larry Bird. "But during basketball season, that is obviously very tough. I was happy a few years ago when we played in Indiana around the New Year. That way I was able to make contact with my family. Christmas is a family day but since most of my immediate family is in Indiana, I try to at least have dinner with close friends when we are in town."

"There's some pressure around the holiday season," thinks the veteran Center Robert Parish. "You have your mind on basketball because the season is beginning to heat up. But then again, Christmas is special, so you have to be sensitive to your family's needs."

"We just have never been able to go home to Minnesota," says Lynn McHale. "But the way I view it, I realize that's the way it's always been. I've been with Kevin since college and that goes back into the mid-seventies and he's always been busy with The Game. The burden does get thrown back on the wives or the fiancées. But you just have to learn to make do."

The annual Celtics' Christmas Party is a symbolic event for the team and for several reasons, it's important to the people in the Celtic Family. It acknowledges the strains of the game around the holidays. It is a way of giving back, in the form of gifts to the children, the sacrifice that the players make for the team. This is an organization that does build its team with the type of people they have, as part of it.

Celtics' schedule. Now, he's in Washington D.C., his home, during the holidays.

Donna Johnson feels the most important feature is at least spending some time together as a family. "There have been so many days around the holidays that Dennis has either been playing, practicing or traveling, that we make almost inborn allowances for it now. As long as we spend the morning together, that's what's important. Our son Dwayne (7) can run around, look at the tree and play with his gifts. If he's happy, and I think Dennis and I make sure that he is, then we've had a fulfilling day."

Most of the families who were interviewed spend the time during the holidays in Boston. For several years, the Celtics were often gone until mid-January but for the past three seasons they have returned on or close to New Year's Day.

"That puts some stress on us," says Roberts. "Whenever we could, we would spend the holidays with our families in Utah. Now, we have them come here. The holidays are a very happy time for us all, that's the bottom line. But I'll do as much

as I can around the holidays for the family because I realize that my type of job places a lot of demands on my wife. So I make it my business to put aside things I normally do for myself and do more things for her. I take care of the kids and my wife goes shopping."

"We have a happy time around the holidays," says Danny Ainge. "We'll try and have the family together and give as many gifts to the kids as we can within reason. I'm very proud of my family and I want to see them have fun and enjoy the holidays."

This is a particularly joyful holiday for Darren and Tammi Daye. They are expecting their first child and although the team will be leaving Christmas Day, they are able to withstand this season's separation. "I've felt bad before and usually I'll try and spend the day with Darren, even if the team he's on is traveling. But I am wary about being on a plane early in pregnancy. I've felt fortunate about Christmas during Darren's career because he's usually been home during the holiday. But this year, we're moving into our new home so I'll be busy with that. It'll be a happy day all around. Darren will be able to spend time with our families, who both live in California (The Celtics play in Sacramento December 26th). And I'll be in the process of getting our family started in a new home."



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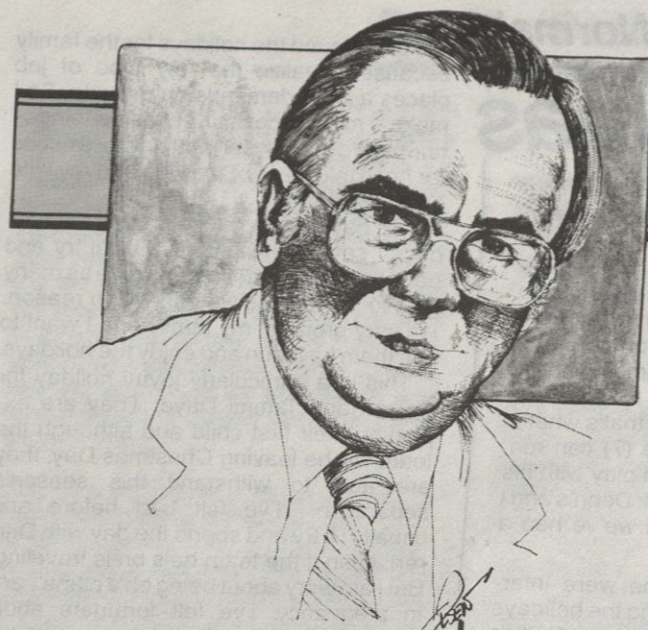
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Eddie Gillooly

Controlling Tempo

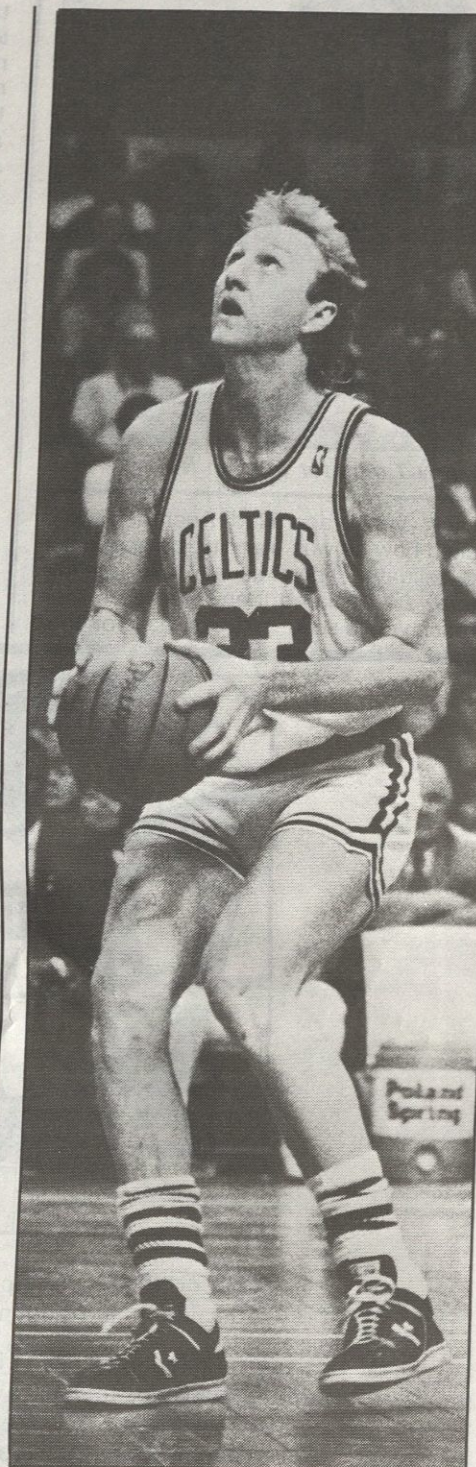
Denver's recent superb performance which ended the Celtics 34-game win streak on their parquet floor was stark evidence the guys in Green have to get their post-up game in working order. They can't get themselves caught up in an up-tempo game.

Naturally everyone was concerned, being unaccustomed to seeing the Celtics lose at the Garden. The fans streamed out of the building as though they had attended a wake. The media sought answers trying to figure out what is wrong with the Celtics.

"How bad is it?", Coach K.C. Jones was asked over and over after the contest. Certainly there was cause for grave concern, considering the disastrous road losses, but this one against the Nuggets was a game Denver WON not one the Celtics LOST.

Doug Moe, Coach of the Nuggets, was on target with his statement "I don't think any other team except our team could have beaten the Celtics tonight. We played an excellent game. The Celtics were ready but we controlled the tempo."

That's exactly what happened against Denver and has been happening against other teams. The Celtics have gotten away from their strength because of all the injuries. Their post-up game, the



Larry Bird: Creative Genius

bread-and-butter of their offense, has been no factor.

When Larry Bird closes a game with 19 points in the final period as he did against Denver, it's usually death and destruction for the opposition, but not this time. The Nuggets maintained their poise and survived the Bird onslaught.

Denver was outstanding. Garden fans hadn't seen such crisp perimeter passing since the 1985-86 season when the Celtics dominated the league. It was picture perfect. The ball moving from one player to the other until there was an open man. The Nuggets chalked up 32 assists in the contest.

Meantime, the Celtics were taking jumpers at the other end without making passes. The result was a basket at the other

end on every miss. The Celtics were back-peddaling throughout the game.

The Celtics had fairly good control of the contest in the first period when they were working the ball inside. They forced Denver to call a couple of timeouts early by jumping into a quick lead.

But in the second period, they opted for the running game trying to match baskets with the Nuggets. They couldn't compete with Denver's speed and as a result, they weren't getting back on defense. The visitors had the advantage on every fast break.

Equally important, Bird rarely touched the ball in the second period. The Celtics' superstar hasn't been moving all that well since injuring his ankles but every time the offense doesn't include Bird, bad things happen.

It was a different game in the fourth period when Bird began hitting and the Celtics were able to get back on defense. They chipped away at a 12 point lead and got themselves within striking distance. On any other night, Denver would have succumbed. But they would not be denied in this contest.

What the game showed is that the Celtics must execute on offense. They need patience. They need to pass the ball. Use up the clock and make every attempt to get the ball inside. They are not a 48-minute fast break team.

Three-point shots are exciting but the Celtics won't win consistently if they rely on this weapon. Probably they got carried away early in the season with the young legs of Reggie Lewis, Brad Lohaus and Mark Acres and figured they could run, run, run.

But the guys who can bring another championship to Boston can't do that night after night. The injuries are piling up. The Celtics starters have been playing hurt since the season started. A controlled fast break is their game.

Kevin McHale scored a lot of points in his first five games back in the lineup but they weren't his usual type. He needs time to get back into the flow and feel comfortable in that low post position. Once he gets his rhythm the Celtics offense will be smoother.

With McHale on the sidelines at the start of the season, Jones' only choice was to shift some of the scoring emphasis to the back court. He increased the number of shots for Danny Ainge and Dennis Johnson.

He virtually abandoned the inside game because he needed Robert Parish for rebounding and couldn't wear him out by making him post-up every play. Besides, Bird was playing sensationally and giving the team all the offense it needed until the injury began to cause him problems.

But now, with McHale getting more playing time and appearing ready to go all out, the Celtics will go back to what they do best — operating with patience on offense to create the inside shots.

Their offensive rebounding will improve because the players will be able to get better position under the boards, something they haven't been able to do in the fast break, one-shot offense.

"How bad is it?" It's not that bad. The Celtics have had to make tremendous adjustments early in the season and possibly the variety of moves, including the playing time for the rookies, could be most beneficial as the season progresses.

The IBA Hold's a Free Agent Draft to Kick Off It's First Season

A League is Born



Trevor Green and Russel Brown show their skills in Manila

About two years ago, Austin "Rocky" Kalish saw a need. As a television producer, he saw a lot of basketball games, as a fan of the sport, he saw a need. The NBA was growing taller every year. Point Guards grew to 6'9", Centers to 7'4" and Forwards to 6'11". Where was the just as talented, but smaller player to go? Had the NBA grown so athletically blessed that a whole other aspect of the sport was lost? Was there not a need for fans to see the playmaking and tense defensive struggles which had been a foundation of the sport for so many years?

As recent events have proven, there was indeed a need. A need which is currently being fulfilled by the newly established IBA (International Basketball Association). Ruminating about the possibilities of a 6' and under league, Rocky consulted with two men who would help the concept to become reality. Enter Ben Hatskin, original owner of the Winnipeg Jets, and Dennis Murphy, the founder of the ABA, WHA and president of World Team Tennis. It was upon these three sets of shoulders that the 6'4" and under league was founded, nurtured and supported.

Also responding to the idea was Bob Cousy, who lent his opinions and voice to the project. Although his time and energy will soon end with the league due to prior commitments, Bob was able to lend his expertise in structuring the rules and philosophy to the mix.

And so, the concept of the new league has matured to fruition, due to the experience of Dennis Murphy in organizing the league, ten locations have landed franchises. They are: Toronto, Las Vegas, Vancouver, Ohio, New York, Fresno, Calgary, Chicago, Southern California and Los Angeles. The league will begin play in May of 1988.

What we are likely to see on the court is not unlike the qualities we saw during Bob Cousy's glory years in Boston. Namely, superior outside shooting, great ball-handling, sharp passing and pressure defense. Bob said, "What I think people enjoy most about basketball is watching the play develop, the creation of the play and the passes."

Judging by the talented group of free agents recently drafted by the IBA, Bob's words may well turn out to be prophetic. Toronto had the first pick and promptly chose former NBA great Calvin Murphy to be their player/coach. Other notable choices in the first round were Jamie Waller, formerly of the Nets, Darryl Kennedy, a Celtics late round selection, Mitchell Wiggins, Bruce Douglas, and Tim McCalister.

Familiar names abound in the succeeding rounds as well, in players such as Carlos Clark, Terrance Stansbury, Billy Donovan, Lowes Moore, Frank Ford, Andre Turner (remember him?), Phil Ford (how about him?), Andre LaFleur, Dirk Minnifield, Kelvin Ramsey, Darwin Cook,

and for all the name droppers in the audience, Larry Jordan was drafted by the Chicago team (he's Michael's brother), Bo Jackson was chosen by Southern California in the thirteenth round, making him the only athlete in memory capable of playing three professional sports, and last but certainly not least Thomas Hearn, chosen in the thirtieth round by Chicago leading one to wonder what new scenarios may result from his "batting for a rebound."

If "The Hit-Man" ever did play in this league, one rules change may help to keep him in the game longer. That is that in the new league, players won't foul out of games. The rules committee is currently in the process of deciding on an alternative penalty for players who receive their sixth foul. Currently, the rules committee is leaning toward two technical fouls being awarded to the opposing team for fouls committed by a player after his sixth. Another, more subtle rules change, according to John Totaro, public relations spokesman for the league, will be a thirty-second time clock, with eight seconds allowed to get the ball over the half court line. "What we're trying to do is put the emphasis back on defense and passing, we don't advocate a "slow-down" by any means, we really want an up-tempo style of play."

Ultimately, the IBA plans to have teams and divisions in Asia, Europe and Latin America, making it truly international in scope. In fact, the groundwork has already been laid for just such a venture, as over the summer, the IBA, after extensive tryouts, took a team to the Philippines for a series of exhibition games, and clinics. According to John the games went well, "Ted Owens and Paul Howard coached our All-Star team and played the Philippine professional teams, going 3 and 1 in the round robin tournament. We eventually plan to have divisions promoting play between many countries with eventual winners playing a true world championship competition."

So the idea has become reality, in two short years, the league has progressed and gained momentum. After the 1988 NCAA Tournament, the league will hold its first college draft and in May play will begin.

Polaroid's Get-Together at Blades & Boards



Several times a year, the Polaroid Corporation, one of the primary corporate sponsors of the Boston Celtics, holds a get-together for some clients and executives in the Garden's Blades and Boards Club. On Wednesday, December 10th, before the Celtics-Nuggets game, Dennis Johnson and Robert Parish stopped down to visit with the folks from Polaroid.

Kodak Photo Tip # 2

By Steve Lipofsky, Official Photographer of the Celtics

High speed film is the staple of the Action Photographer. As discussed in the last issue, fast film allows the photographer to work in low light while still maintaining a fast enough shutter speed to stop action.

The vast majority of working photographers use Tri-X as their all-around black and white film. Its standard rating of ASA 400 makes it suitable for many different lighting situations. Indoor action however, demands higher speed.

To get more speed out of the film, you set the camera's meter at a higher ASA setting. Each doubling of the film's ASA is expressed as an increase of one f-stop. ASA 400 Tri-X shot at ASA 800 is pushed one stop. Professionals routinely push their film to ASA 1600. Since these higher ASA settings "fool" the camera's exposure, less light reaches the film. This

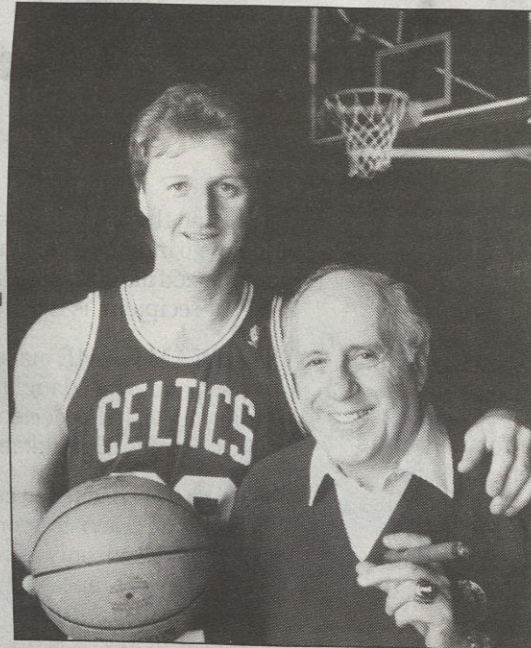
must be compensated for by overdeveloping the film. If you go to a lab for your processing, be sure to tell them how many stops you pushed the film. If you process your own film, you may try using D19 or Accufine developer. Tri-X shot at ASA 1600 can be developed in Accufine at 70° for 10-12 minutes with good results.

Recently, I switched to the new T-Max film. It's nice and sharp at ASA 400 and holds up well at ASA 1600. T-Max developer is recommended for this film, as other developers don't seem to produce enough contrast. You can however, use the T-Max developer for other films with good results.

Remember, pushing film will result in more grain and contrast but this is usually preferable to the blurred pictures that result when slow shutter speeds are used for fast-action.

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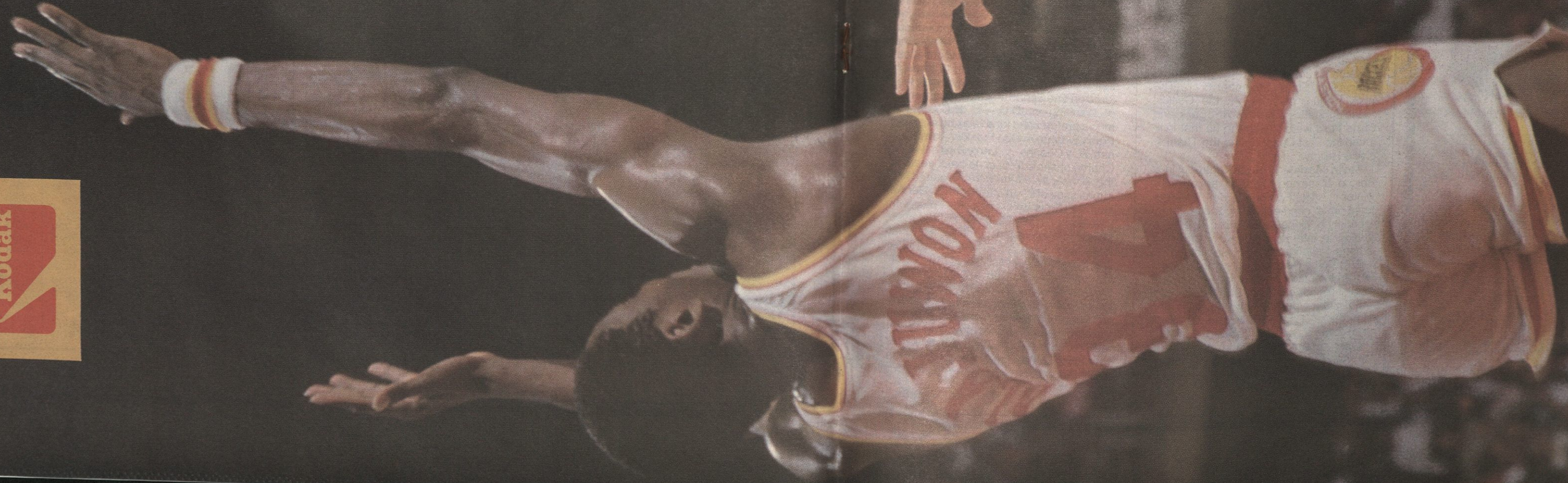
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Tom McHale

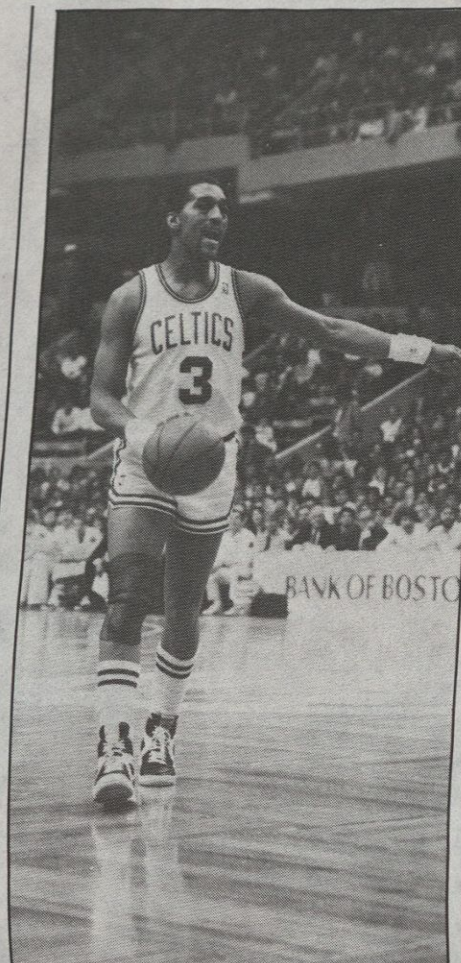


Celtics Confidential

By Bob Schron

Tom Heinsohn, the former Celtics Coach and presently the color commentator on the team's home cable network, Sportschannel, is high on the Celtics' rookies, including **Brad Lohaus**, **Mark Acres** and **Reggie Lewis** but feels there's only enough playing time available for one of the three, barring unforeseen injuries. "I think **K.C. Jones** (the C's coach) is searching for an eight-man rotation. With **Kevin McHale** back, I think that a set rotation would have to include **Jerry Sichting** and **Darren Daye** and I think K.C. would really like to see someone like Lohaus rise up and play some quality minutes." Asked about **Fred Roberts'** status, Heinsohn remarked that he (Heinsohn) hadn't forgotten Roberts. Heinsohn thought that K.C. would prefer having a rookie play exceptionally well to obtain a hypothetical eighth man's minutes. The Celtics were struggling to re-define their roles. **Greg Kite** was the subject of The Herald's **Steve Bulpitt's** lead story in his weekly column.

During a Monday practice after the Celtics' traveling road blues show continued in a 128-105 defeat in Detroit's Silverdome, **Jerry Sichting** and **Kevin McHale** nearly came to blows during a scrimmage. The two didn't get as near as squaring off, but they did hold their respective arms longer than usual in the normal jostling as Sichting fought to break through McHale's pick. Jones was asked about trying to establish a normal rotation. Would the players be better off, he was queried, if they knew what their precise roles would be every night? "I don't think that should be necessary," the coach responded. "Whether a man comes out and plays twenty minutes one



Dennis Johnson: Sonics Reunion

night, or six the next, shouldn't affect the way he approaches the game mentally. He should be ready to play with game intensity every night."



Tom Heinsohn: Likes Fred Roberts

In a lighter vein. The Voice, **Johnny Most** was a guest of Tank on WBCN's *Michegas*, a morning quiz format segment of that rock station's morning program. **Skip Chappelle's** Maine Black Bears were guests of K.C. Jones at a Celtics' practice. **Larry Bird** celebrated birthday #31 that same day, serenaded by a group of high school young ladies that morning. Bird shattered the Celtics' mark for consecutive Free Throws made, previously held by **Bill Sharman** and featured in the previous issue of this magazine. Bird scored 59 straight foul shots before finally missing on his first attempt against the Pistons, December 4. **Reggie Lewis** was on hand at Northeastern's Matthews Arena to watch his former team defeat Central Connecticut State December 5. The injury plague, of sorts, hit the Celtics' coaching staff as **Jimmy Rodgers** and **Chris Ford** were ill with the flu that infiltrated the East Coast during the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Kevin McHale is to be featured in a Boston Magazine Story to appear this winter. The Boston Garden was featured in a segment in a documentary taped by a Minneapolis Public Television station in late November. Bird was among several players highlighted in USA's David Dupree's list of players who are so talented they can do "virtually everything." For example, Bird is a forward with guard-type ball-handling skills and the Bucks' **Paul Pressey** further illustrated this as a "point forward." **K.C. Jones**, **Ellen Jones** and son **Christopher Jones** were featured in a News-West story in early December.

How Did You Spend Your Thanksgiving Dep't: Rookie **Brad Lohaus** and his wife were guests of **Larry Bird** and fiancée **Dinah Mattingly** and their friends from Indiana that day. Leftover: Seattle SuperSonics 1979 Championship team held a reunion. This team included, of course, the Celtics' brilliant point guard, **Dennis Johnson** as well as former Celtic, **Paul Silas**. Johnson was the Most Valuable Player of that playoff win, (4-1 over the Bob Dandridge-led Bullets) but told Tom Carelli of WEEL Radio of Boston, "I thought any one of us could have been MVP." Good News that former Celtics' contributor **Rick Carlisle** is back in the NBA, with the Knicks. In an interview with WILD's **Willie Maye**, The Boston Globe's **Bob Ryan** (recent author of *Forty-Eight Minutes* with **Terry Pluto** of The Cleveland Plain Dealer) disclosed he is writing a book with the immortal **Bob Cousy**. Rookie **Dallas Comegys** of the New Jersey Nets, originally drafted by the Hawks and reportedly desired by the Celtics in the most recent draft, commented on guarding **Larry Bird**, "He's a three-time MVP and I did the best I could just to keep up with him." Complimentary comments. Then he added, after picking up three personal fouls in less than half of the period he guarded him, "It seemed that I was whistled for a foul even when I wasn't guarding him." **Dennis Johnson** was a guest on WILD radio, and was asked about how he wanted to be thought of personally in the league. "I think there are certain complexities about being in the public's eye all the time. You have to be guarded about your opinions. I guess the way I want to be thought of is that I am a man who tries to say what he believes, but one who doesn't want to hurt anyone. But when I say something, I'll stand by it."

Sylvia Carr, wife of **M.L. Carr**, was part of a fund-raising function held recently for the Children's Hospital in Boston. **Conner Henry** signed a one-year contract with the Milwaukee Bucks last week.

Fred Roberts was interviewed on WLVI-Channel 56, the UHF home of the Celtics, and said this about the Lakers: "You can't think too far ahead when you play the Lakers. Each game throughout the regular season is as important as the others. On the other hand, I thought about the Lakers all summer and all through training camp." **Danny Ainge** was featured on The Sports Machine Program out of Washington, D.C. **K.C. Jones'** music preferences for a relaxing evening: Frank Sinatra, Aretha Franklin, Tony Bennett, Ray Charles. **Larry Bird's** 3-Point Championships in back-to-back years in the All-Star Weekend will be featured in a future issue of Sport Magazine. **Gerald Henderson** is the first Celtic to play with the 76ers in the 1980s. Henderson signed a Free Agent contract with that team last week. The Celtics, after slumping briefly, practiced at the Boston Garden before the Denver game at home. On that Tuesday before the next night's game, the Celtics scrimmaged for nearly two hours with the clock and score kept on the stadium scoreboard overhead. It was the first time the C's have practiced this way since Jones took over as Coach in 1983.

Game by Game

Atlanta 120 Boston 106 at the Omni, December 1

The Hawks dampened the euphoria of the Celtics, connected to the return of Kevin McHale, by sweeping by the Green in Atlanta, 120-106. Dominique Wilkins paced the Hawks' scoring with 22 points while Tree Rollins scored 20 points and led the Hawks with 10 rebounds. McHale scored 22 to highlight the Celtics offense.

Atlanta really sealed off the Celtics by running off a 15-0 surge in the first half to lead 43-24 early in the second quarter. As in so many instances in the league, the Celtics were forced to utilize their energies to merely get back into the game. Boston did close to 11 late in the first half and in the 3rd period did shave the margin to 79-69 behind Larry Bird, who scored 18 in the contest. But Wilkins helped to re-establish control for Atlanta.

Spud Webb contributed 9 assists and was the point guard during the Hawks' initial stanza burst, which had Atlanta ahead 37-24 after one. The Hawks led 63-51 at the half and pushed their lead back up to 20 (97-77) late. Jerry Sichting had his season high, 12 points, for Boston.

Boston 130 New Jersey 99 at Boston Garden, December 2

Larry Bird scored 34 points and had 9 assists as the Celtics easily defeated New Jersey, whose record dropped to 2-11, the worst in the NBA (with Golden State). With the return of Kevin McHale to the starting lineup, it marked the first time this season, in Game #16, that the Celtics played with their starting line-up intact. For the Nets, it was as if they were once again playing their home games at Rutgers.

McHale added 23 points including 9 for 11 from the field.

Boston assumed control early. A 12-zip run midway through the first period, highlighted by Bird's nine gave Boston a 23-13 lead and paved the way to a 35-21 initial period advantage. Boston led by 62-42 at halftime as the aforementioned starting unit fashioned another shutout, 6-0 this time and Robert Parish capped that rally with a shot at the buzzer.

The second half was a virtual replica of the first twenty-four minutes. "We just don't have the varied attack necessary to compete with Boston," Dave Wohl, New Jersey Coach said afterward. "They forced us to take the outside shot by packing in their defense, but we don't have good outside shooters." Danny Ainge had 20 points and Dennis Johnson handed out 13 assists. Pearl Washington, rumored to be on the trading block, had 20 for New Jersey.

Detroit 128 Boston 105 at the Silverdome, December 4

The Celtics' desultory road performance continued as the Detroit Pistons took command over the final three periods to easily defeat Boston, 128-105 before 34,253 in Detroit. The Pistons placed eight players in double figures with the scoring paced by Adrian Dantley's 21. Power forward Rick Mahorn had 14 rebounds and Isaiah Thomas registered 12 assists. Larry Bird's 27 led Boston's offense.

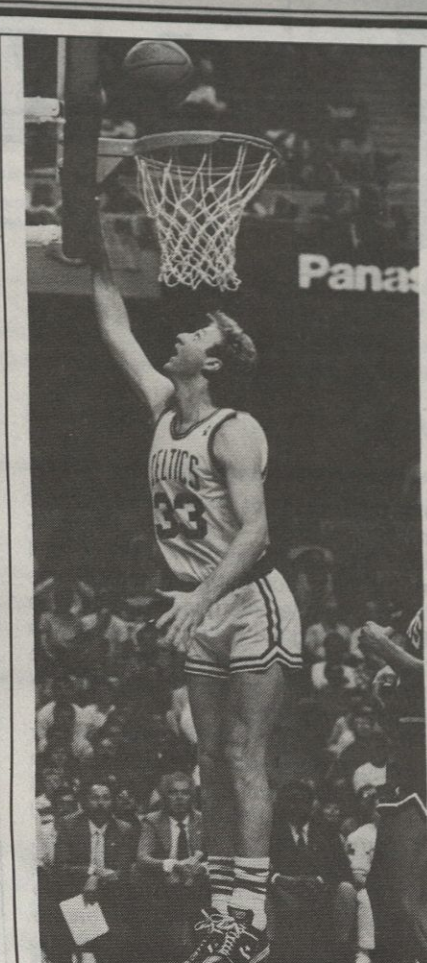
That Celtic offense seemed to be primed to play a strong road game for only



Kevin McHale: Back vs. Hawks

a quarter, in a game the Celtics really needed to at least play effectively in. The Celtics led 33-31 after one, behind Dennis Johnson (19 points for the night). But after K.C. Jones went to the bench to begin the second quarter, the Celtics seemed to lose their intensity. Playing without the injured Danny Ainge (rotator cuff injury which would require a shot), the C's rotation was diminished and the enthusiastic Pistons hounded Boston — Ainge-like — to assume command. Boston committed nine turnovers in their first eleven possessions in the second period, even after the starters returned and Detroit had a commanding 64-45 lead. Detroit scored 71 points in the first half.

Boston spent the remainder of the night trying futilely to catch up. They drew within 95-82, sparked by Jerry Sichting and Fred Roberts but never really threatened.



Larry Bird: 34 pts., 9 assists vs. N.J.

Denver 123 Boston 119 at Boston Garden, December 9

Michael Adams, former Boston College star, scored 31 points and had 5 steals to lead the Denver Nuggets to an upset win over the Celtics in Boston. The defeat snapped the Celtics' regular season homecourt winning streak at 34.

The Celtics seemed to be in control early in this game, surging out to a 39 point first quarter behind the running of Kevin McHale and Robert Parish. "But turnovers and our bad rebounding let them back in," moaned K.C. Jones afterwards. Throughout the second quarter, the Nuggets charged back behind Adams and Lafayette Lever to limit Boston to only 14 second quarter points. Denver's control continued through the third period as well; Larry Bird was forced to sit out the opening moments of the 3rd period and

Denver led 90-78 after three. The Celtics' woes were compounded in that stanza as Dennis Johnson (15 assists in 29 minutes) suffered a badly twisted ankle and was forced out for the rest of the game.

Bird's sixteen points in the last period highlighted a spurt in the final five minutes, the Celtics finally pulling within 118-115 with :50 remaining. But after Robert Parish (14 points, 14 rebounds) pulled down an errant Nugget field goal try, Adams raced behind the Celtic center for a steal and the Nuggets held on for the win.

Los Angeles Lakers 115 Boston 114 at Boston Garden, December 11

"Scoring that basket was the second best in my career," said Magic Johnson after last season's Most Valuable Player scored a running 20-footer at the buzzer to defeat the Celtics, 115-114 at the Boston Garden. The Celtics suffered their most disappointing defeat of the year, after leading by six points with only 2:33 remaining. Johnson's most preferred shot: the running hook shot that gave LA a one point win in Game Four of The Finals last season, also over Boston.

The teams battled on fairly even terms throughout the first half with Boston leading by 60-58 at the intermission. But Boston, behind Larry Bird and Dennis Johnson seemed to have control in the third quarter. Using an attacking running game, Boston led by as much as thirteen late in the third period, 71-58. But the Lakers rallied back, pulling back into an 83-83 tie late in the quarter behind Johnson, Michael Cooper (22 points) and A.C. Green. Boston then retaliated as Jerry Sichting (17 points) continued to be effective, allowing the team to weather Danny Ainge's foul problems.

Larry Bird led the Celtics with 35 points, 9 rebounds, 8 assists, 5 steals and 2 blocks. The Celtics needed a crucial defensive possession late but instead, Mychal Thompson of Los Angeles helped bring about a tie at 113-113, after a Cooper 3-point FG. Controversy and excitement ended the game. After Danny Ainge missed the second of two FTs to give the Cs a 114-113 lead with :03 left, Thompson appeared to lose control of the rebound. But referee Mike Mathis granted the Lakers a timeout, ruling that LA had called the stoppage of play before the last possession. Johnson then hit the winner.

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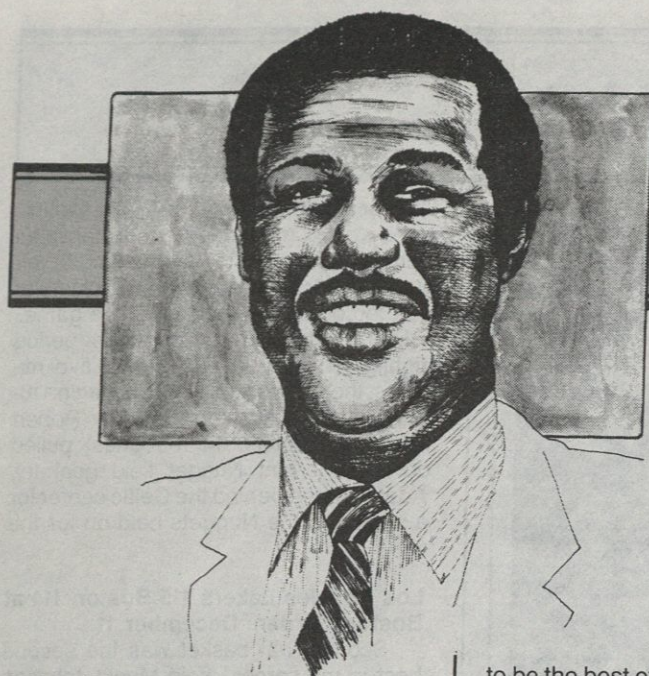
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Boston Celtics Statistics

WON 11, LOST 8															THROUGH GAMES OF DECEMBER 11												
PLAYER	G	QS	MIN	-FIELD GOALS-			3-PT	FG	-FREE THROWS-			--REBOUNDS--			AST	PF	DQ	STL	TO	BLK	PTS	AVG	H1				
				FG	FGA	PCT			FT	FTA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT													
BIRD	15	14	331	157	287	.547	13	30	85	90	.944	22	121	143	88	33	0	26	45	11	412	27	5	47			
MCHALE	5	4	170	35	63	.556	0	0	26	32	.875	15	23	38	13	11	0	6	10	9	98	19	4	23			
AINCE	18	18	677	130	266	.489	28	75	34	42	.810	16	41	57	92	54	1	22	29	1	322	17	9	33			
PARISH	19	19	670	119	215	.553	0	0	32	78	.667	54	146	200	36	50	2	16	52	18	290	15	3	24			
JOHNSON	19	19	657	93	218	.427	1	5	.81	94	.862	17	49	66	149	52	0	19	41	12	268	14	1	23			
DAYE	19	8	452	82	154	.532	0	1	.48	69	.696	20	28	48	44	40	0	17	24	1	212	11	2	27			
ROBERTS	19	12	434	68	137	.496	0	2	.45	61	.738	25	36	61	31	42	0	5	21	5	181	9	5	20			
LEWIS	16	0	162	31	75	.413	0	1	.15	25	.600	9	14	23	11	27	0	6	17	6	77	4	8	14			
SICHTING	15	1	244	32	58	.552	2	5	.3	5	.600	4	10	14	39	19	0	11	8	0	69	4	6	17			
LOHAUS	16	0	199	27	64	.422	0	3	.15	18	.833	17	28	45	14	38	0	4	23	14	69	4	3	15			
ACRES	17	0	257	23	46	.500	0	0	.13	29	.448	22	43	65	13	49	1	4	17	5	59	3	5	14			
KITE	13	0	86	9	23	.391	0	0	1	6	.167	10	14	24	2	16	0	3	9	8	19	1	5	4			
CELTS	19		4660	817	1634	.500	47	130	429	559	.767	233	561	794	544	442	4	140	320	91	2110	111	1	140			
OPPONENTS	19		4660	829	1692	.490	27	75	417	550	.758	266	545	811	493	497	11	181	300	83	2102	110	6	139			



M.L. Carr

Old Foes

Last week, two old foes renewed their rivalry on the parquet floor in the Boston Garden. The LA Lakers were in town to play the Boston Celtics, with several new questions. Specifically, has the rest of the NBA begun catching up to the two traditional Goliaths of the NBA? How "great" are the two teams this season? And finally, how do these teams stay at their peak competitive levels?

I must introduce this set of problems with an important bottom-line qualifier. I think the Celtics and the Lakers continue

to be the best of this league. I believe that on any given night—and on most nights—these teams will get the job done. As I wrote in this space last issue, some teams are beginning to catch up throughout the NBA, including the Detroit, the Atlanta and now the Portland Trail Blazers. Clyde Drexler led them on an impressive nine-game winning streak.

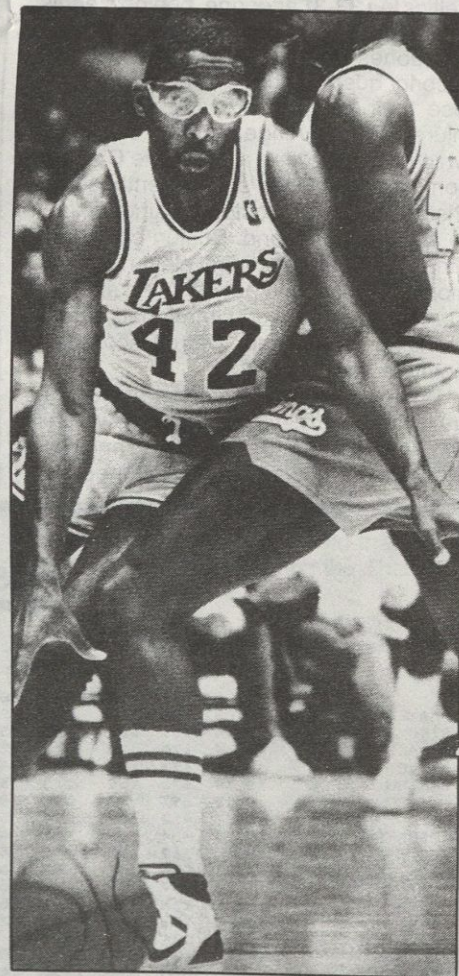
First, the league has become stronger and where this is most in evidence is on the contenders' home courts. We would go into another team's city when I played and carry ourselves with the attitude, "We're not only coming in here 'hopeful' of winning, we're coming in here to win. No question." Teams throughout the league

are playing like legitimate championship contenders on their home floors and the Celtics and Lakers have to respect their new strengths. First, then, the toughest thing the traditional champions have to do is establish themselves on opposing teams' home turfs. Develop an air of confidence that can knock opponents back on their heels.

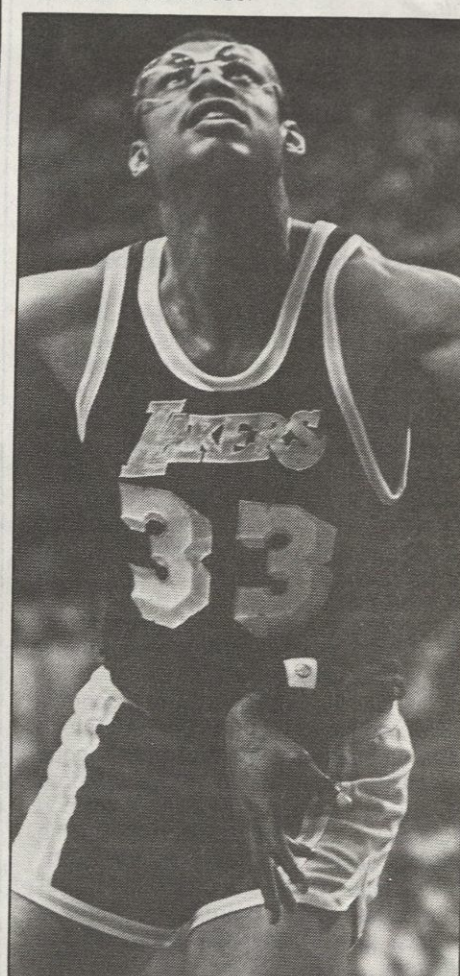
Secondly, When we are assessing these teams' "greatness", a habitual question that is asked is, "Is age catching up to these teams?" (Abdul-Jabbar of the Lakers, for example). In my view age isn't a cause for concern at all. If the key players aren't injured, that is. I believe both teams are still clicking on all cylinders. These teams remain champions. They haven't fallen to #6 or #7 in this league. It's a matter of perspective really. If the Washington Bullets—with Moses Malone and Bernard King—won 55 games this season, there would be cause for rejoicing in Washington. If the Lakers or the Celtics win that number, there are all types of questions. There is but one answer, really. Namely, for a team to win 65 games this season and for a number of seasons to come, they will have to have everything going their way. I believe that the goal for the Lakers and the Celtics is still legitimate: the championship. Now, however there are short term conditions: how do the teams themselves approach the prospect of winning less games.

I believe that the major war to be won for this year's champion is psychological. The Lakers won it last season, they've been without James Worthy and there is a letdown. The Celtics are always in the hunt, so there is the expectation of success. In order to remain on top, these teams have to continue to build on their strengths, night after night. If they win, they can't afford to get too high. If they lose, they must examine why they did lose and how the problems can be addressed productively. In this age of sports, where everything is subject to careful analysis, I suspect this tactic—to remain consistent—can sometimes sound like hollow rhetoric. But consistency remains the highest goal, especially for teams the caliber of a Boston or LA! The worst thing these teams can do is question their own abilities if they falter. That's why the adage is true: the fall from the highest height is the steepest. To stay on top, the winning team must become even stronger, not self-doubting.

In order for these teams to remain at their most competitive levels, they must win on and off the floor. If they lose a game, the next game must be approached with renewed intensity. Concentrate more profoundly at the free throw line if missed foul shots are a problem. If the opposition is penetrating at will, send the message out that the next time, if you drive, expect to hit the floor. The shot will be contested. Off the floor, champions don't panic. They don't point fingers. The worst thing a player can do after a loss is sit in his room in a hotel alone. We'd always make a point of going out to a movie in groups of two and three. We'd always create a looseness.



James Worthy: Injured Laker



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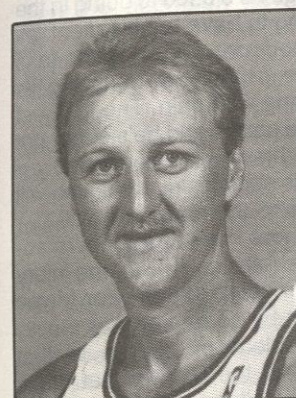
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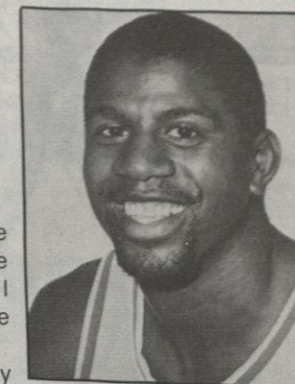


Larry Bird

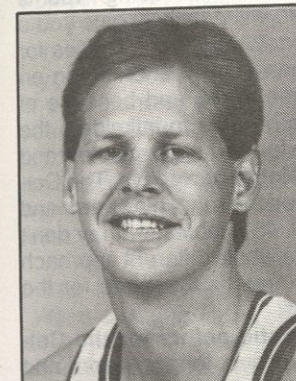
Larry Bird, Celtics Forward, on the Celtics' difficulties playing on the road: "You've got to come to play on the road. Coming to play means you've got to get back on defense. Recently, (before the games) I thought we'd play well on the road. I thought we'd do the things you've got to do to beat a good team on the road. But we've continued our bad habits. We've continued to do the same basic things on the road we've been doing against good teams, and we lost."

Magic Johnson on how his Most Valuable Player award last season affected the Celtics' Larry Bird: "Larry and I motivate each other. He was the motivation for me last year — he'd won the M.V.P. three times and I wanted to show I could win it. I know I'm motivating him right now; he wants to come back this season and prove he's the best."

"If Larry retired... it would be a different game for me if he were gone. He's my measuring stick."



Earvin "Magic" Johnson



Danny Ainge

Danny Ainge on his approach of refusing an opposing player an uncontested breakaway dunk: "Fans don't like it when a guy's going in for a spectacular dunk and I grab him. They want to see the dunk. But I'd grab my wife if she had an uncontested lay-up."

Mike Fratello, the Atlanta Hawks' Coach, commented on Kevin McHale's return to the Celtics' lineup December 1 in Atlanta: "I don't have a barometer on how he should look. I don't know how much he's practiced. But if you're asking me if you're worried he's going to score every time he touches the ball, the answer is, of course you are!"



Mike Fratello

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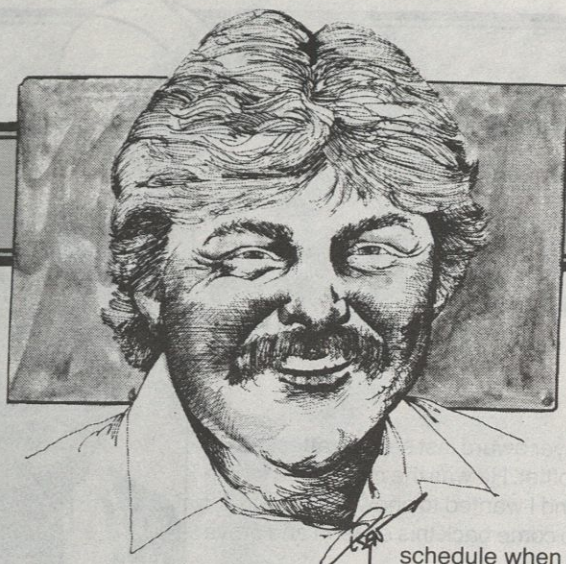
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Glenn Ordway

Points of Interest

In this relatively early part of the season, there are some aspects of this year's team that concern me, and some that show reason for optimism. The season is young, and every team in the league still has many challenges ahead. It is just during this period of the

schedule when it's time for teams to look at themselves and their opponents and to correct any problems which may linger, as well as capitalize on strengths which are developing.

Some points of concern for the Celtics: They are an aging team, and due to the longevity of the season, I feel they have to arrive at a rotation whereby the starters can afford a little more rest now and then. The correct tendency around the league is to go with your guns in the



Jerry Sichting: Bright Off the Bench

fourth quarter, during the crunch. For this club to be successful, it's going to be important for the bench to contribute with some meaningful minutes, through a reg-

ular rotation. I think it's vital to get a couple of kids off the bench, especially with the injury situation.

Kevin McHale needs to come along slowly, carefully. There's no question that to date, he has not been able to do the instinctive things he's used to doing in the past. He's going to have to be patient, as will the fans, because one thing the fans might not notice is that Kevin is playing his best, and playing with pain. The foot just doesn't feel the same, and he's either not able to make his moves comfortably or if the move is successful, his timing will be a little off, and the shot won't fall.

Obviously, there has to be concern about Larry Bird's Achilles. This same injury has been an ongoing struggle for Magic Johnson, will it be so for Larry as well?

Another problem of course is that everyone else in the NBA is that much better. There aren't too many "weak sisters" in this league any more. I think we're dealing with what Pete Rozelle called parity. We're close to it in the NBA, there's just not many bad teams, especially when you're playing in their building. Teams playing at home will definitely give you a run for the money. I think the Celtics for years have been able to show up in an opponents home court, and because of who they were be able to intimidate the team and play for about 28 minutes and win the game. Not so nowadays. The Celtics have to go on the road, play hard, and play hard for all 48 minutes, or they don't win. It will take a whole different approach by these guys and it's the same for the whole NBA.

Some optimistic points for the Celtics: First off, it's a long season and sometimes there's a tendency among the media to focus too much on the short term. The playoffs though, are light-years away, a lot will happen between now and April. Not only for the Celtics, but for every team in the league. The Celtics are going through some tough times early on which provides the team with plenty of time to react. It's better for adversity to happen now than in March. A number of teams, including Seattle of last year, have proven that it's not how well you're playing in November or December, but how well you're playing in March.

We have in the Celtics an experienced, talented NBA team. A smart NBA team, the type of team that when entering the playoffs, will be awfully tough. The playoffs are a completely different brand of basketball, the officiating loosens up and play becomes more physical, and the smarter, more experienced teams seem to rise to the top on those occasions.

The recent play of Jerry Sichting has been a bright spot for the Celtics. One of the reasons Jerry has been looking so good, has come from his willingness to play a very aggressive style of defense. He gets up on the point guard, gets all over him and causes some havoc. He's working real hard, and because of so much double and triple teaming on the big guys, Jerry's been finding himself wide open. In the recent Lakers game, Larry was hitting Jerry with that cross-court pass and Jerry was canning the jumper all night. Any time you have the likes of a Larry Bird getting defensive pressure, you realize that he's going to find a way to score. Not necessarily that Larry himself is going to put it in the hole, but that he will find a way to work the ball to the right man to get the job done.

Right now, the Celtics have a lot of work to do and fortunately have a lot of time to do it.

Eddie Meets Larry in Boston

New Bird on the Block

In the afternoon before the Indiana State Sycamores and Eddie Bird were to meet the Boston University Terriers, Indiana State's Coach, Ron Green, was discussing the sophomore Forward, Eddie Bird, younger brother of Larry Bird, the Celtics' star Forward and perhaps the greatest to ever play, was obviously talented. But how talented?

Green, an affable Midwesterner who won several championships at Ball State, had seen some talented players in his career but genuinely thought Eddie Bird could be one of his best. "But it's all up to himself. Eddie Bird has great talent and I believe he could go a long way as a big guard. But he has to get stronger."

There are three things that a player has to decide for himself if he has any potential: he has to ask himself, "Where am I as a player?"; second, "where do I want to go with the ability that I have?"; finally, he has to determine "what price will I pay to reach my goal?" Eddie has the tools. He's a fine, fine ballhandler and he can shoot it. He seems to have a fine sense of what his teammates need to do to win a game. But I'm uncertain at this point how much Eddie wants to sacrifice to make it at a major level."

At the team's shootaround that day, Eddie Bird spoke briefly to a reporter. "We're a young team," Bird commented about Indiana State. "We'll make mistakes because not only are we young, but we've barely played together. We've turned the ball over too many times already this season.... Not playing together long enough will do that to a team." Bird was poised as he spoke and it was a tribute already to the young man that he was so calm, since he was being pursued as a subject for an interview because of not only who he is, but who he is related to. "We just have to be patient because we'll probably lose a few before we begin improving."

"Will he be another Larry Bird?" Green later asked rhetorically. "Nah! But who ever will be another Larry? But I constantly

draw the comparison to the Wilkenses. Gerald Wilkense isn't another Dominique, but Gerald is a fine, fine NBA player. Eddie can play at a level very comparable to Gerald's relation with Dominique. But he has to get stronger. He has to work on the weights, build his upper body strength up. He has to be willing to work on his game, including the weights, for hours after our team practices have finished in the early evening. That's how he'll be able to reach the NBA level. But it's all up to Eddie. What price will he be willing to pay?"

"Larry was willing to make the commitment, over and over in a unique way, owing to his tenacity and competitiveness. Larry Bird carried a team at Indiana State and now arguably, he carries a league."

"But when it's all said, I think Eddie's doing very well. He had twenty points, nine rebounds and nine assists in our opener, which was mobbed in Terre Haute. After the game, one newspaper's headline said, 'Bird Disappoints'. Well, he didn't disappoint me. Overall, he's playing extremely well."

In Boston, there was the buildup, the game, the postmortem. There were the inevitable comparisons made concerning the brothers. It was a college game, it was

family and it was the gate.

The temptation to schedule Indiana State in Boston wasn't to be unexpected. Larry Bird's popularity in the greater Boston area is insurpassable, witness the 300+ consecutive sellouts at the Boston Garden in Bird Era. It made perfect business sense for Boston University to schedule the Sycamores. And this is foreshadowing, for Eddie Bird must deal with etching maturity, personally, and in the footsteps of Larry. The sophomore was in such demand that Boston University scheduled a press conference for the young player.

At the press conference Eddie Bird stated, "I hope people look at me as Eddie, not Larry. For example," he went on to say, "in high school, if I didn't hit my shots, they'd start saying, 'Oh, he's not as good. But I admit I don't work hard in practice. Especially in high school. I thought I wasn't going to college at first until I realized I'd better get going and do something."

This is a youngster who is self-contained and aware of the obstacles surrounding his path to success in basketball. The battle is as much in developing an identity as Eddie Bird, as it is to developing basketball talent. The latter is often a lonely search, if the NBA is the end goal. The former is a necessary first step.

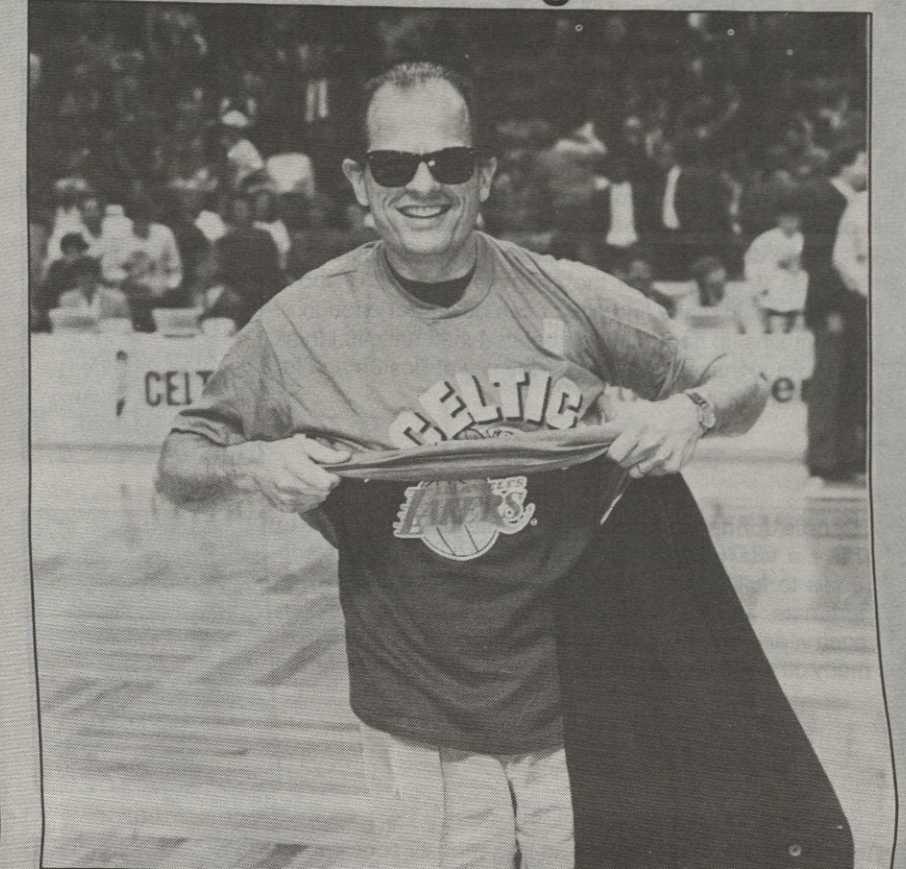
Larry Bird would address the Sycamores at 7:15, before they took to the court to play Boston University. In the game, Eddie, the team's main cog, couldn't get untracked; his shooting was off (scoreless from the field and two points) and he was finally taken out of the game in the first half as the impressive Terriers raced to a 23-12 lead. They continued to build on that lead throughout the night behind the scoring of Dedrick Irving, who had 34 points. Irving is a 6-4 senior guard who BU Coach Mike Jarvis thought was inspired by Larry Bird's presence at the game. "I don't know, but I think Larry's being here just added to everything. It gave Derrick and Larry Jones (who played Bird) an opportunity to showcase

themselves."

"I knew Larry would be there," Eddie told The Boston Globe. "I felt relaxed, but you're going to have one of those games one night. It was just fun coming to Boston to play."

Larry felt Eddie just had a bad night but he was also happy to see his younger brother play, postponing his flight to Detroit with the Celtics one night as the team flew to the Motor City for a game with the Pistons the following night.

Jack Trades Allegiances?



Radio station WVBF in Boston held a Jack Nicholson Look-Alike contest at their Annual Listener's Party at the Sheraton-Boston Hotel on Thursday, December 10th. Pictured above is the winner, Barry Charton, who was presented to the Boston Garden crowd at halftime of the Celtics-Lakers game the next day. In a grand gesture, Charton/Nicholson, who was sporting a Lakers T-shirt, switched allegiances at halftime by donning a Celtics shirt he had hidden away.

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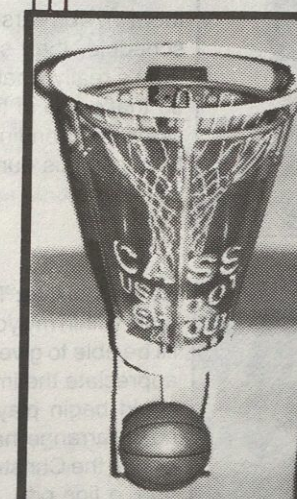
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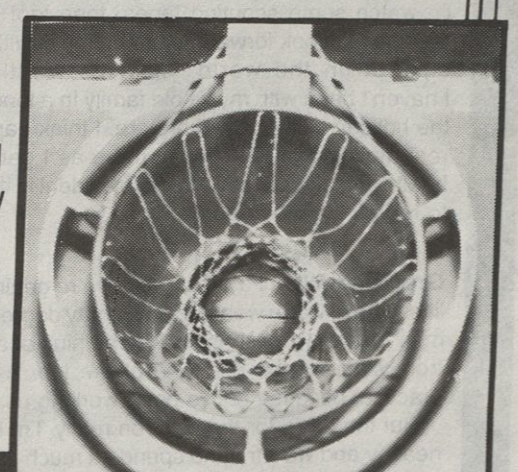
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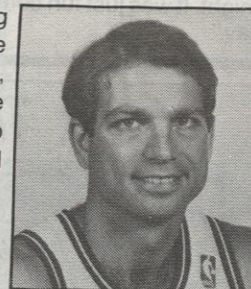
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Celtics Perspective

What Do You Want for Christmas?

Jerry Sichting: I think personally the gift I'm appreciating more as I get a little older is my health. Professionally, I've never been injured like I have been this season (knee, ankle). In this business, you need your wheels. I'm aware of how fortunate I am; too many days I see people who aren't able to even run at all. So I'm grateful for my general good health and that would be an ideal Christmas gift.



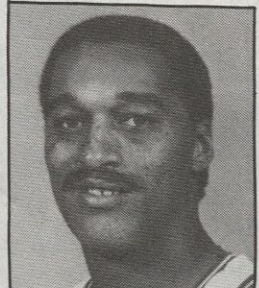
Jerry Sichting

Larry Bird: I think an important Christmas gift is a general one too: good health for the family and that usually means some form of happiness. I want to keep hitting threes all season, I want to win the championship; all of those above would make fine gifts. I can never get enough of championship rings. Call it a belated material gift. I think that would make a nice gift for the city of Boston and for French Lick.



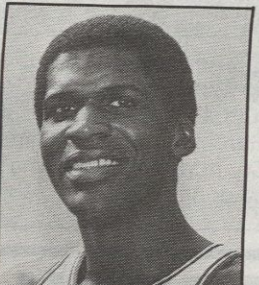
Larry Bird

Dennis Johnson: A perfect gift for me for Christmas is to have a totally happy Christmas Day. I still have some goals to fulfill, like winning the title. But I've been very fortunate, and that's because I believe I've felt happier each year—my family, my profession. I could only wish for many others to feel the same way and have a similar fate.



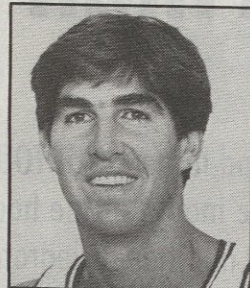
Dennis Johnson

Robert Parish: I love music and I'd seriously consider a new compact disk player. But then, I'd want as many jazz disks as possible and a long weekend to fully cool out. I'll be glad to see us playing better and that would be nice around Christmas. Otherwise, for the family, I would greatly appreciate keeping the wife happy, seeing her get some success with her career and having my son Jason with all the miniature motor cars and toys he wants.



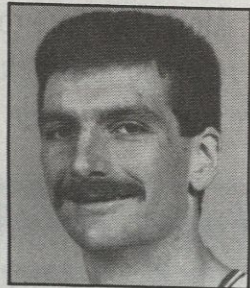
Robert Parish

Mark Acres: I enjoy films and so what I want as a gift would be a video recorder. I'd watch films all the time and I'd watch some scouting tapes, then too! When I was younger, I'd look forward to the holidays with all the anticipation in the world. Now it's a little different. I haven't been with my whole family in a long time during the holidays; in a way, therefore, I think I appreciate the real meaning of the holiday more as I get older. Good health and a good family is more evident in its importance to me as the years go by.

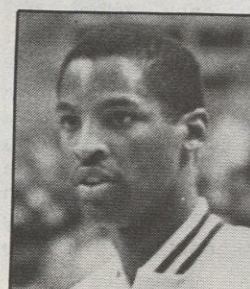


Mark Acres

Greg Kite: What I'd like is what we're getting, sort of. I'd like to be in warm weather, say eighty degrees, for Christmas. Some warm sunshine, something of a relaxing day from some of the pressure of the job. A day off from practice, because K.C.'s been working us pretty hard. But the day's for the children really. I'm happy they're healthy and we'll try and spend as much time as we can together as a family.

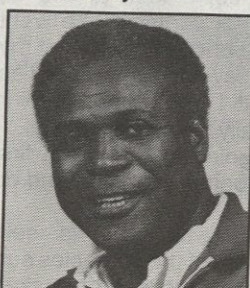


Greg Kite



Darren Daye

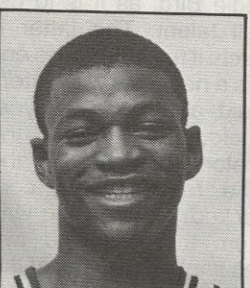
Darren Daye: I'd like to win megabucks. Failing that, I'd want our Christmas wishes to be fulfilled: my wife is expecting and I am praying for the health of our child. Also, we are planning a move and I want our new home to be a place where we can be happy and prosperous.



K.C. Jones

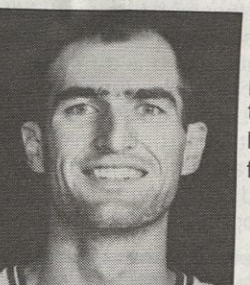
K.C. Jones: The material gift would be easy: winning Megabucks. If I couldn't win the big lottery, then I'd be happy winning the Friday night lottery. Would I continue to coach if I won all that money? Of course I would!

As far as the spirit of the holiday goes, I think there has been a dramatic change over the past several years. I think people would love to spend money and be able to give toys to their kids. But they go to the store and they see the price for the item to be something like \$50. They can't do it so what you have is unhappiness. They end up giving each other greeting cards. That's very disappointing.



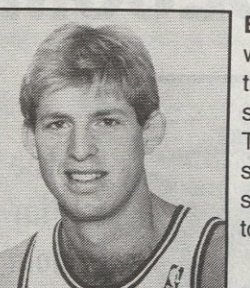
Reggie Lewis

Reggie Lewis: For Christmas, I'd like to see my parents, who are in Baltimore. Christmas hasn't really been the same since I started playing because I've been away from my family, so being together with them is really the only gift I'd want. The spiritual unity I'd feel being with them would be a suitable gift.



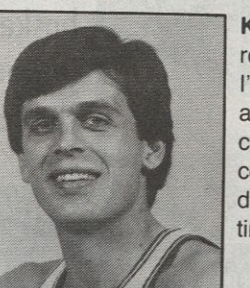
Fred Roberts

Fred Roberts: There's nothing that I want, really. I just want a happy day and something of a break from the daily practice and routine of the game. But I'm grateful for the travel, too. On Christmas, I just want to give toys to my kids and gifts to my wife and spend the day together as a family.



Brad Lohaus

Brad Lohaus: I don't want any material gift. Only being with my parents during Christmas. I haven't even seen them in two years—we can never hook up because of my schedule, their schedule. Especially during Christmas. That's really what would give meaning to the day for me, so that's one of the real benefits of playing as a professional. I'm sending them two expenses-paid plane tickets to be with us during Christmas.

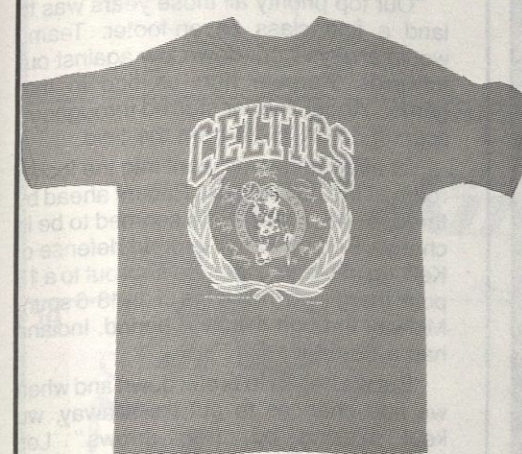


Kevin McHale

Kevin McHale: The meaning of the day, in terms of gifts, rests within my young family. I'll enjoy Christmas because I'll be able to give gifts to my family. Personally, I'd deeply appreciate the improvement in my foot. I'd hope that we could begin playing better basketball. Somehow if we could arrange having a nice fishing trip for a few days during the Christmas season, that would be mighty tempting, a fine gift.

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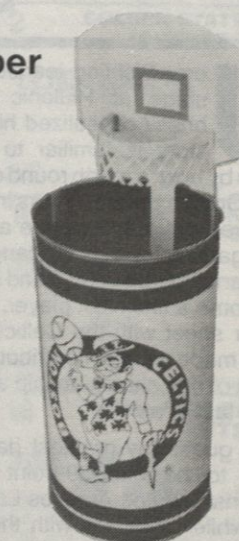
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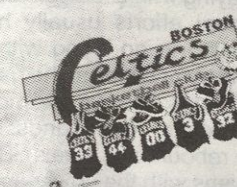
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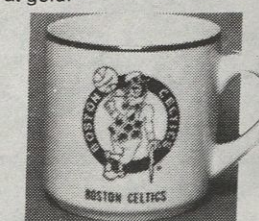
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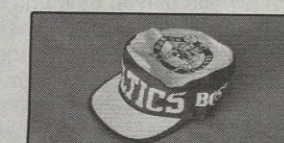
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The Best Day They Ever Had

Jerry Sichting's 29-Point Performance vs. Lakers

Jerry Sichting leaned back on the stage at Hellenic College and briefly capsulized his career. The story is familiar to most Celtics fans by now: a fourth round draft choice by the Golden State Warriors in 1979, he was waived out of the league and was out of the game for a year. He caught on with the Indiana Pacers in 1980 and since then has become a fine NBA player. He signed an offer sheet with the Celtics in 1985 and has made a major contribution to the winning of one championship and a near victory last year.



Jerry Sichting: earned respect from the Lakers.

"I guess my greatest day individually had to be that 29-point performance against the Los Angeles Lakers in 1983-84 while I was still with the Pacers. It's hard to explain how losing can affect the way a player approaches a game. The Pacers were always losing in those years and any time you went up against a team like the Lakers, you were primed to play your best because a victory over the best in the league made your season."

The Los Angeles Lakers came into the Market Square Arena with a 29-16 record. They were being led that season by the same cast of players who have made their team the most successful of the decade. Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Michael Cooper and James Worthy, the latter in his second season. Johnson was averaging 17.6 ppg with 13 assists, Abdul-Jabbar, 21.5 ppg, with other major contributors off the bench in Jamal Wilkes and Bob McAdoo. The latter two veterans combined for 30 ppg that year. The Lakers had won five in a row as they took the floor against Indiana, and ten of their previous thirteen.

"We were pretty young and very inconsistent that year," recalled Sichting. Indiana had just come off the road and had dropped all three, playing effectively only against the 76ers although they still lost that game 111-103 as Julius Erving scored 30. Leading scorer for the Pacers: Jerry Sichting with 27. "I didn't usually score that much," reflected Sichting, who was starting for the Pacers. "But that week, I was stroking the ball." After losing to the 76ers, the Pacers were swamped by Boston 125-106 and then Washington defeated the Pacers 125-101. "We worked hard in practice, I can promise you," said Sichting about the three days between the Washington road defeat and the Lakers affair in Indianapolis.

A sellout crowd of over 16,000 was on hand as the Pacers literally caught the Lakers asleep at the starting gate. Indiana surged to a six-point lead early as the crowd immediately got into the game. Sichting started the game with Butch Carter, Clark Kellogg, Herb Williams and Steve Stipanovich. "What we had noticed on the films was that Kareem was sagging in to give him an easier path to the defensive rebounds. So Stipanovich was picking high and I was open for several easy jumpers. From the beginning, it appeared that the Pacers might pull off the upset. The Lakers were clearly the class of the Western Conference but Boston had a seven game lead for the best record in the

within the framework of the offense. "Our top priority all those years was to land a first class seven-footer. Teams would always work down low against our forwards. Kareem hurt us bad in that game." Abdul-Jabbar started throughout, scoring 33 on 15-24 from the field.

Yet after the teams went into the locker room at the half with the Pacers ahead by three, 51-48, Indiana still seemed to be in charge. Behind the all-around defense of Kellogg (5 steals), Indiana shot out to a 15 point margin on the wings of an 18-6 spurt. Midway through the third period, Indiana had a 69-54 lead.

"But we began to break down and when we had chances to put them away, we kept missing our free throws." Los Angeles quickly rallied behind Cooper (13 points, 5-5 from the field) and Wilkes. The Lakers came within one, early in the fourth period and "that's when Kareem killed us." Sichting tallied that career high 29 on 12-17 shooting, 5-5 from the charity stripe and he also contributed 4 rebounds and 8 assists.

"But that was always the problem about playing with a losing team. Your best individual efforts usually had a frustrating feeling to go along with them. You'd try and try and look at the games Kellogg and Williams had, for example (Williams had 22 points, 10 rebounds; Kellogg 19 points 11 rebounds, 5 steals). But in the end, the teams with the power and the experience won."

The Lakers broke out in the final moments after the game was tied four times in the final four minutes. Abdul-Jabbar hit a sky hook in the final :10 to give the Lakers a 106-103 margin. Indiana's failure to execute could only give them a two-point field goal as the clock ran out and the Lakers had the win.

Foster Grant Giveaway



Each of the 15,000 fans attending the Celtics December 11th game against the Los Angeles Lakers received a pair of Boston Celtics sunglasses, courtesy of the Foster Grant Corporation. Here, a section of the fans at the game proudly display the latest in fashion shades. The Celtics wish to thank Foster Grant for their participation in one of the most popular in-arena giveaways in the team's history.

JANUARY

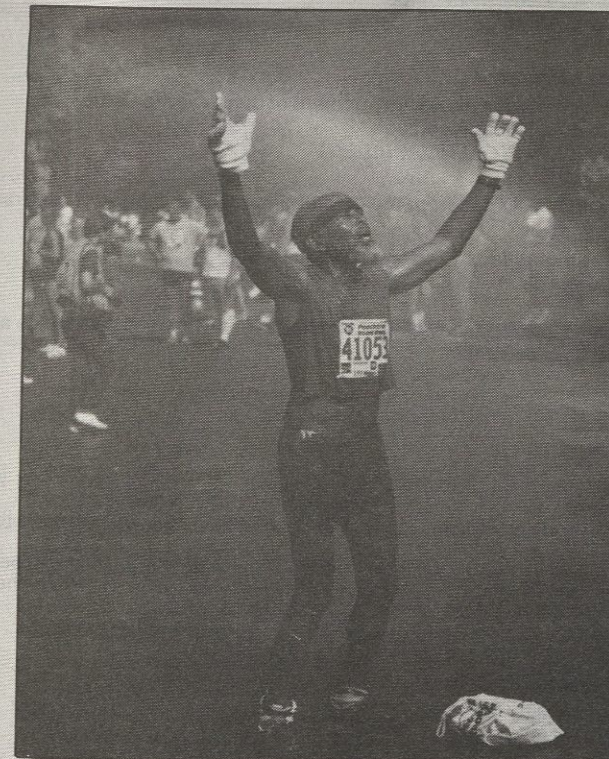
HOME AND AWAY SCHEDULE...

Home Games

BOSTON CELTICS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS
						11:00
3	4 UTAH JAZZ	5	6 NEW YORK KNICKS	7	8 WASHINGTON BULLETS	9 NEW YORK KNICKS
	9:30		7:30		7:30	7:30
	WEEI RADIO WLVI-TV56		WEEI RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL		WEEI RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	WEEI RADIO WLVI-TV56
10	11	12 CHICAGO BULLS	13 DETROIT PISTONS	14	15 SACRAMENTO KINGS	16 NEW JERSEY NETS
		8:00	7:30		7:30	7:30
		WEEI RADIO WLVI-TV56	WEEI RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL		WEEI RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	WEEI RADIO WLVI-TV56
17	18 GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS	19	20 PHOENIX SUNS	21	22 ATLANTA HAWKS	23 CLEVELAND CAVS
	1:00		7:30		7:30	7:30
	WEEI RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL		WEEI RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL		WEEI RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	WEEI RADIO WLVI-TV56
24 PHILADELPHIA 76ers	25	26 ATLANTA HAWKS	27 WASHINGTON BULLETS	28	29 DETROIT PISTONS	30
31		7:30	7:30		8:00	
WEEI RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL		WEEI RADIO WLVI-TV56	WEEI RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL		WEEI RADIO WLVI-TV56	

Kodak/Celtics Pride Photo Contest Winners



First Place

Pictured above are the winning photographs from last month's Kodak/CELTICS PRIDE photo contest. Our first place finisher was Brett Neal of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. For finishing first, Brett will receive several exciting prizes including a Kodak K-12 35mm camera, and the opportunity to sit



Second Place

courtside and photograph an upcoming Celtics home game. Second and third place were awarded to Michael Perrotta and Kim Grimaldi, respectively. Both Mike and Kim will also receive several exciting prizes from the Celtics and the Eastman Kodak Co.



Third Place

For more information on how you could be a winner, please consult page 26. Congratulations to all winners from Kodak and CELTICS PRIDE!!



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